

Appendix C Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Survey Report

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I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report



Submitted to:

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San Bernardino, CA 92415

Submitted by:

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I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Survey Purpose

The San Bernardino Association of Governments and the California Department of Transportation are proposing the I-10 Corridor Project (Project), which will add a high-occupancy vehicle lane to the existing Interstate 10 Freeway (I-10) in San Bernardino County between Haven Avenue in Ontario and Ford Street in Redlands. The Project area will include the existing freeway as well as easements and staging areas along the freeway. The Project area crosses the Santa Ana River in Colton through an area included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2013 revision to critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), a bird that is both federally and state-listed as endangered (FR 2013). Surveys were conducted within the area where the Project crosses the Santa Ana River to determine the presence or absence of the southwestern willow flycatcher in order to minimize potential Project impacts to the species.

1.2 Survey Area Location

The survey area is located in the USGS 7.5-minute San Bernardino South quadrangle within the San Bernardino Land Grant. The survey area encompasses the Santa Ana River channel on the east side of the City of Colton and the south side of the City of San Bernardino, immediately north of the intersection of I-10 and Interstate 215 (I-215) Freeways (Figures 1 and 2). The survey area is roughly 30 acres with approximately six acres of potentially suitable breeding habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (six acres surveyed per biologist per day). The Santa Ana River flows year round and the width of the riparian zone ranges from a minimum of approximately 20 feet in the western end of the survey area to a maximum of approximately 500 feet at the eastern end. Elevations within the survey area range from approximately 300 feet above mean sea level at the eastern end to approximately 290 feet at the western end.

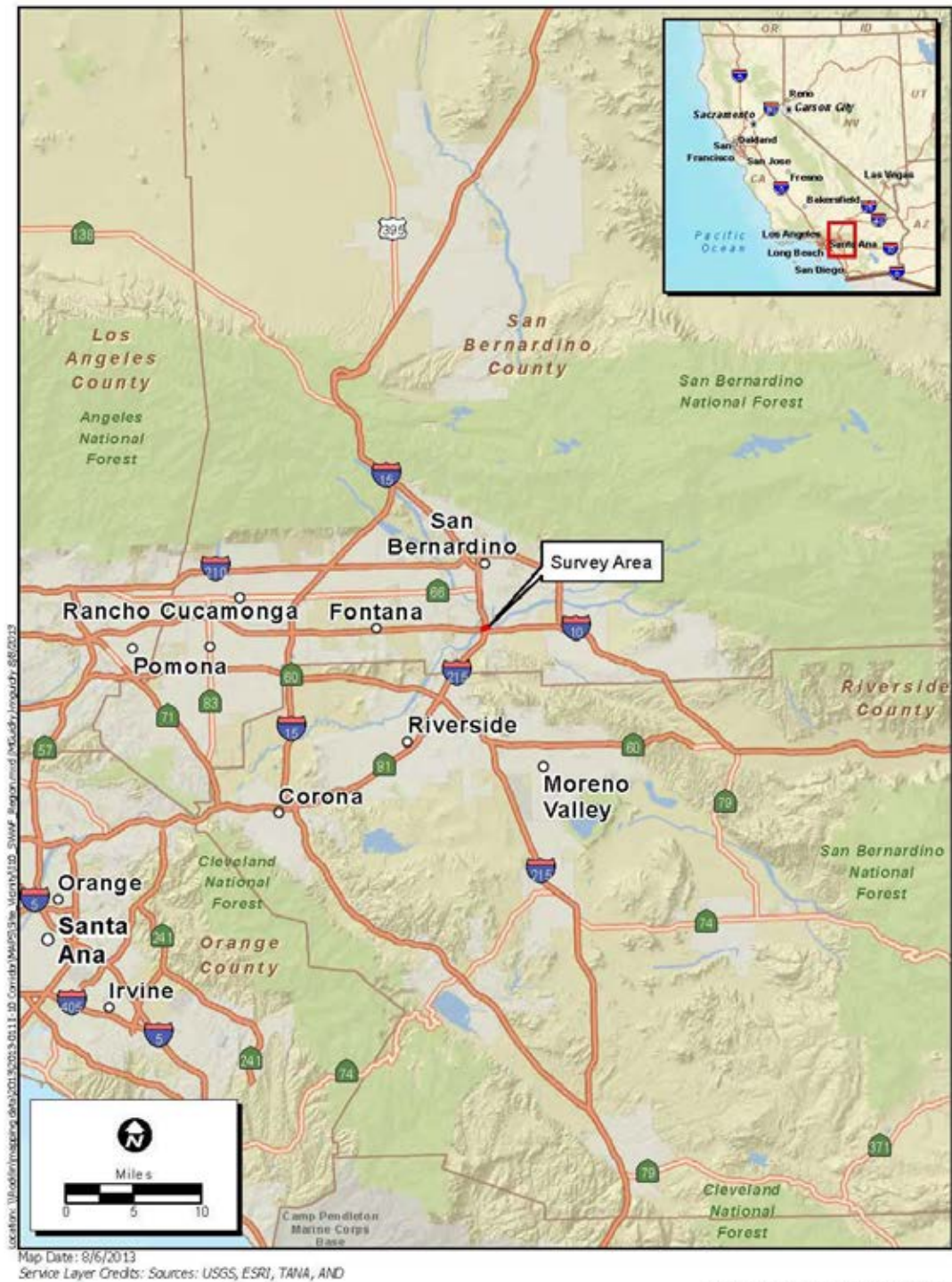


Figure 1: Regional Map

2013-011 I-10 Corridor Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

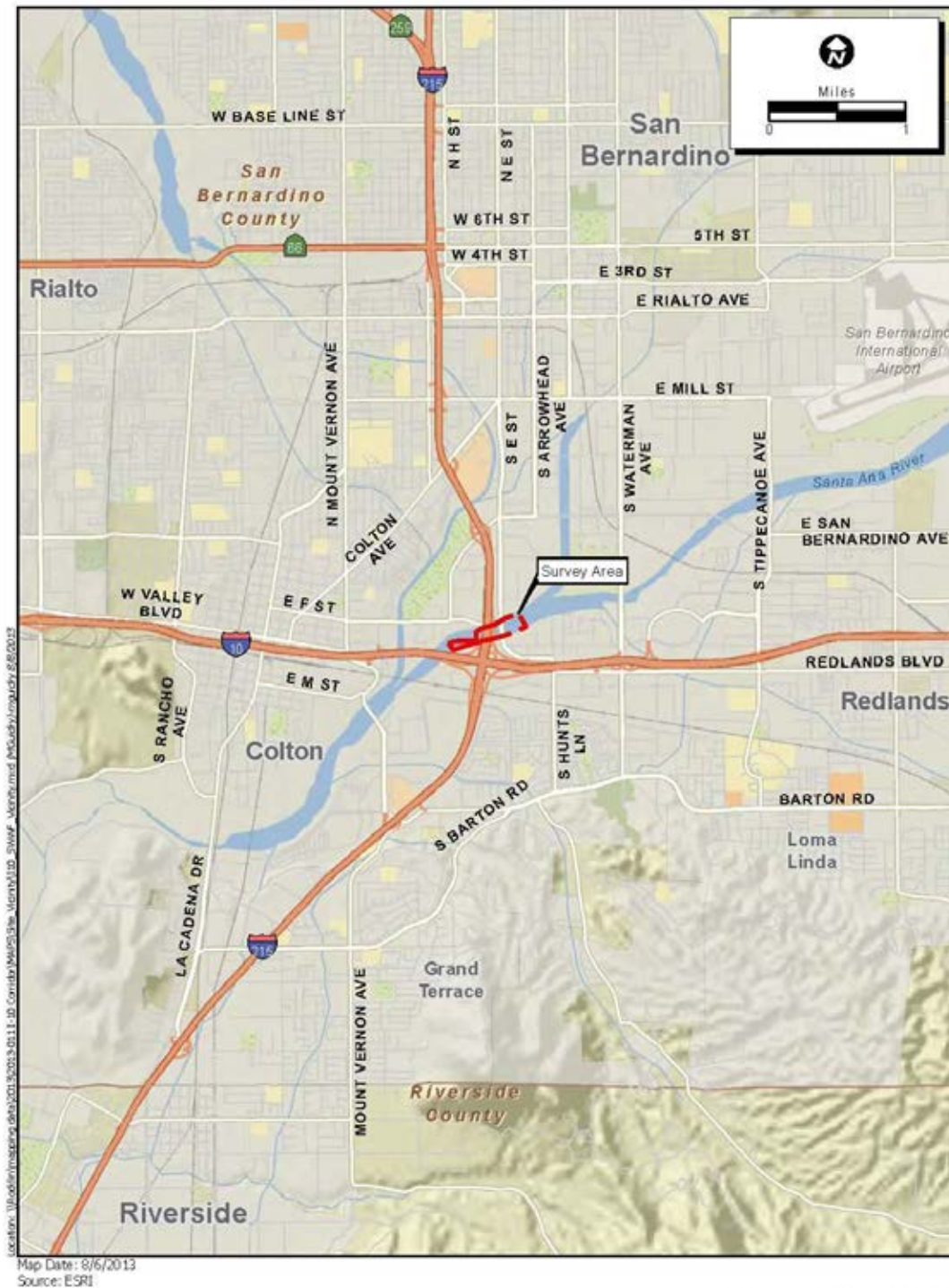


Figure 2: Vicinity Map

2013-011 I-10 Corridor Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

2.0 VEGETATION AND HABITAT

Vegetation communities within the survey area are classified according to *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evans 2009). Vegetation within the survey area consists of riparian communities including Fremont cottonwood forest (*Populus fremontii* Alliance), black willow thickets (*Salix gooddingii* Alliance), and mulefat thickets (*Baccharis salicifolia* Alliance), as well as upland communities including California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub (*Artemisia californica* – *Eriogonum fasciculatum* Alliance). Much of the survey area, especially the western portion, consists of sandy riverbed that is either bare or vegetated with ruderal annuals.

2.1 Fremont Cottonwood Forest (*Populus fremontii* Alliance)

Fremont cottonwood forest within the survey area consists of habitat dominated by mature Fremont cottonwoods but with additional overstory species such as black willows and red willows (*Salix laevigata*). Understory vegetation includes mulefat, wild grape (*Vitis* sp.), and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). Fremont cottonwood forest occurs at the eastern end of the survey area on both the north and south sides of the river (Appendix C, Photograph 1).

2.2 Black Willow Thickets (*Salix gooddingii* Alliance)

Black willow thickets within the survey area consist of stands of black willows but also include red willows and small amounts of mulefat, tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*). Black willow thickets occur within the eastern end of the survey area and in a linear strip on the south side of the river channel at the western end (Appendix C, Photographs 2–5).

2.3 Mulefat Thickets (*Baccharis salicifolia* Alliance)

Mulefat thickets within the survey area consist of dense, nearly monotypic stands of mulefat. Patches of mulefat thickets are found near the center of the survey area on either side of the I-215 overpass, as well as along the south side of the river along the western end (Appendix C, Photographs 4–8).

2.4 California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub (*Artemisia californica* – *Eriogonum fasciculatum* Alliance)

California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub consists of habitat dominated by these two species with smaller amounts of scalebroom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*), annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*), jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), and non-native annual grasses. California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub occurs on the north side of the survey area west of I-215 and on the south side at the eastern end, where riparian habitat transitions to upland habitat (Appendix C, Photograph 1).

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2.5 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Breeding Habitat

The southwestern willow flycatcher typically breeds within dense stands of trees or shrubby riparian vegetation that is equal to or greater than 10 feet tall (Allison et al. 2003). Suitable southwestern willow flycatcher breeding habitat occurs in Fremont cottonwood forest and black willow thickets at the eastern end of the survey area. Marginally suitable breeding habitat consisting of a linear strip of black willow thickets is located on the western side of the survey area on the south side of the river.

2.6 Disturbances

Disturbances observed within the survey area include two overpasses, one for I-215 and one for East South Street, evidence of gang activity in the form of excessive graffiti and empty spray paint cans (Appendix C, Photographs 9–10), and a small homeless encampment on the western end of the survey area.

Additionally, low numbers of brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were observed, although it should be noted that San Bernardino Flood Control was actively trapping brown-headed cowbirds at the southeastern end of the survey area.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Survey Dates, Personnel, and Conditions

All surveys were performed by ECORP Consulting, Inc. biologist Ben Smith (Federal Recovery Permit TE-67390A-0, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Scientific Collecting Permit SCP-10933). Table 1 lists the dates, times, survey area, weather conditions, and additional personnel assisting with the surveys.

Table 1. Survey Dates, Personnel, and Conditions

Date	Surveyors	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
5/31/13	Ben Smith Sonya Steckler	0825	1040	72	79	100	0	0–2	0–2
6/05/13	Ben Smith	0715	1030	60	75	100	50	0	0
6/12/13	Ben Smith	0710	1025	65	75	60	40	0–2	1–3
6/25/13	Ben Smith Carley Lancaster	0700	1005	68	80	0	0	0	0–3
7/4/13	Ben Smith	0645	1005	72	82	25	25	0	0–2

3.2 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher followed the protocol outlined by Sogge et al. (2010). The 2010 protocol recommends five surveys during three survey periods, with two

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surveys occurring within each of the last two survey periods. These three survey periods are Period 1: May 15 to 31; Period 2: June 1 to 24; and Period 3: June 25 to July 17.

Each survey was completed in one day. Surveys were conducted within all areas of suitable habitat along east-west transects spaced approximately 100 feet apart. Southwestern willow flycatcher vocalizations were played at approximately 100-foot intervals along each transect using a portable MP3 player and speaker system. Vocalizations were played following an initial one-minute listening period. The period of listening followed by audio playback was repeated with another listening period before moving to the next 100-foot interval. Locations of willow flycatcher detections were recorded using a handheld GPS unit capable of 3- to 10-foot accuracy. Survey data were recorded in a field notebook and copied onto Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Forms. Completed survey forms are included in Appendix A.

4.0 RESULTS

Two willow flycatcher detections were made in Period 1 during the first survey on May 31 (Table 2, Figure 3). Two willow flycatchers were detected in Period 2 during the third survey on June 12. Willow flycatchers were not detected within the survey area during Period 3.

The two willow flycatcher detections on May 31 both occurred on the south side of the Santa Ana River at the eastern end of the survey area. The first and easternmost willow flycatcher was observed foraging from a branch in Fremont cottonwood forest. The bird was visually identifiable as a willow flycatcher; however, it was non-vocal and did not respond to audio playback. The second detection occurred ten minutes later approximately 280 feet to the west. A willow flycatcher gave a weak "fitz-bew" response to audio playback and may have been a second detection of the previously observed individual.

The two willow flycatchers observed on June 12 were both found on the north side of the Santa Ana River at the eastern end of the survey area. The first and westernmost willow flycatcher was detected in Fremont cottonwood forest when it responded to audio playback with the characteristic "fitz-bew" song. The second willow flycatcher was detected in black willow thickets approximately 300 feet northeast of the first and also responded to audio playback with the characteristic "fitz-bew" song.

Table 2. Willow Flycatcher Survey Results

Survey Period	Date	11N UTM	Status	Detection/Habitat Notes
Period 1	5/31/13	473011mE 3769717mN	assumed migrant	non-vocal, non-responsive WIFL perched in <i>Populus fremontii</i> Alliance
		472964mE 3769650mN	assumed migrant	"fitz-bew" response to recording from within <i>Populus fremontii</i> Alliance
Period 2	6/12/13	472944mE 3769761mN	assumed migrant	"fitz-bew" response to recording from within <i>Populus fremontii</i> Alliance
		473015mE 3769815mN	assumed migrant	"fitz-bew" response to recording from within <i>Salix gooddingii</i> Alliance

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4.1 Incidental Special Status Species

Several wildlife species included on the CDFW special animals list (CDFG 2011) were observed within the survey area. Adult and juvenile yellow warblers (*Setophaga petechia*), CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC), were found throughout the survey area, but were most abundant in the eastern portion of the survey area. Adult and juvenile least Bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), which are state and federally-listed as endangered, were also observed in the eastern portion of the survey area. A least Bell's vireo survey report is being submitted under a separate cover. Finally, one individual Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*), a plant that is federally and state-listed as endangered, was observed in the eastern portion of the survey area approximately 2,600 feet northeast of I-10 and outside of the proposed disturbance limits for the Project (Appendix C, Photographs 11–12). A list of wildlife species observed during the surveys is included as Appendix B. Special status species observations are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Incidental Special Status Species Locations

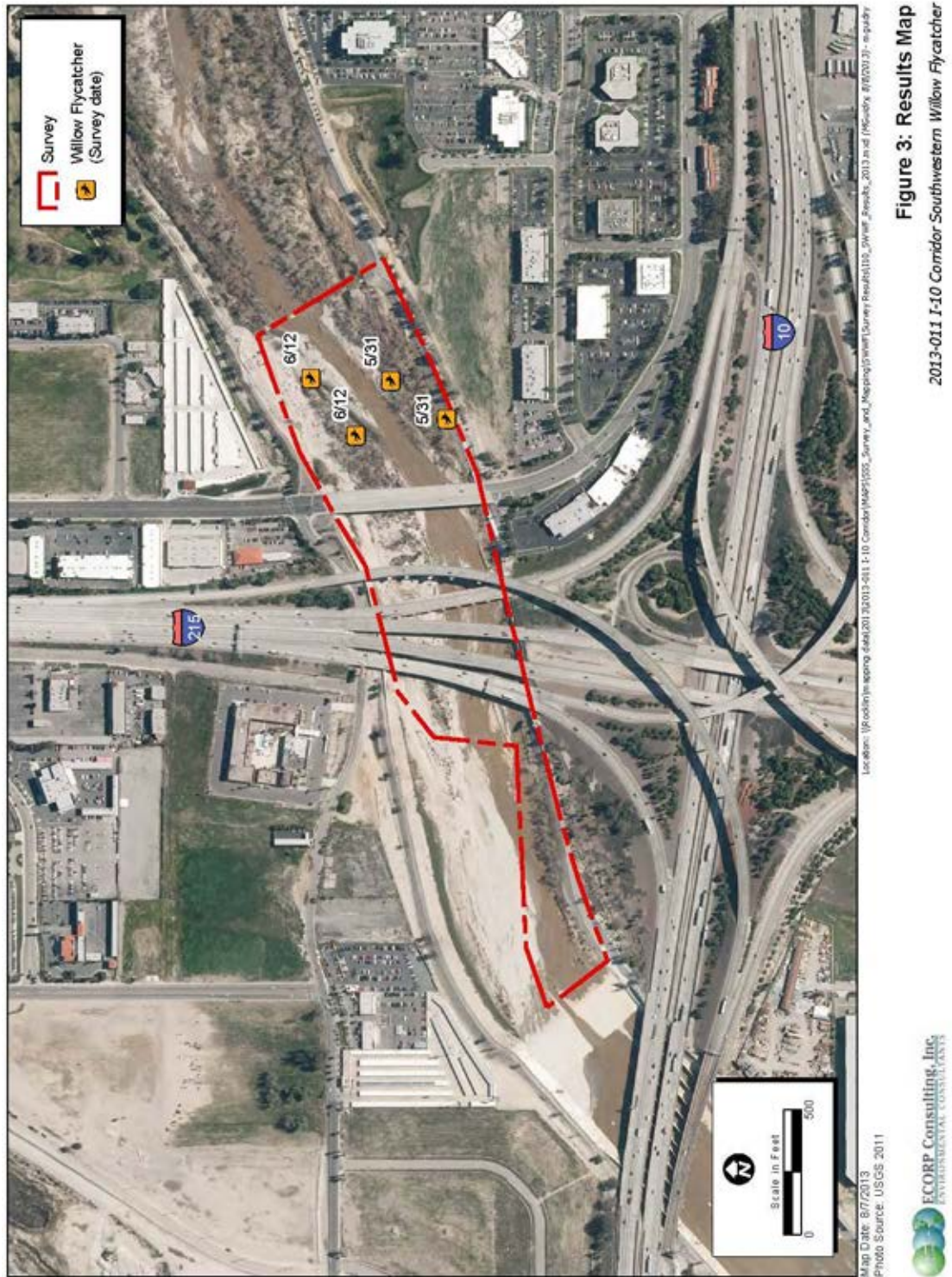
Species	Date	Location
yellow warbler (<i>Setophaga petechia</i>)	all	Throughout survey area. Adults and fledglings observed
least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>)	5/31	11N, 473141mE, 3769820mN Singing territorial male
	6/5	11N, 473141mE, 3769820mN Singing territorial male
	6/12	11N 473272mE, 3769862mN Singing territorial male
	6/25	11N 473062mE, 3769765mN Singing territorial male
	7/4	11N 473129mE, 3769770mN Adult male with at least two dependent fledglings 11N 473001mE, 3769713mN Non-vocal individual with fresh plumage
Santa Ana River woollystar (<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>)	6/25	11N 473062mE, 3769765mN One individual

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Breeding status of the southwestern willow flycatcher was not confirmed within the survey area. Presence of the southwestern willow flycatcher, according to survey protocol, is determined by observation of breeding willow flycatchers or by willow flycatcher detection during the third survey period (June 25–July 17), at which point migrant willow flycatchers should no longer be present in the Southwest (Sogge et al. 2010). The four willow flycatchers observed during survey periods 1 and 2 are assumed to be individuals passing through the area on migration.

5.1 Recommendations

Although the southwestern willow flycatcher was not found breeding within the survey area, marginally suitable breeding habitat begins approximately 500 feet northeast of where I-10 crosses the Santa Ana River and higher quality potential breeding habitat begins approximately 2,500 feet northeast of this area. The project should avoid activities that might adversely affect the vegetation in these areas in order to maintain suitable breeding habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers that could occupy the site in the future.





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6.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Field work conducted for this assessment was performed by me or under my direct supervision. I certify that I have not signed a non-disclosure or consultant confidentiality agreement with the project applicant or the applicant's representative and that I have no financial interest in the project.

DATE: 8/02/2013

SIGNED: 
Benjamin Smith

I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report

LITERATURE CITED

- Allison, L.J., Paradzick, C.E., Rourke, J.W., and McCarthy, T.C. (2003). A characterization of vegetation in nesting and non-nesting plots for southwestern willow flycatchers in central Arizona. *Studies in Avian Biology* 26:81—90.
- Baich, P., and Colin, J. (2005). *Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, 2nd Edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- [CDFG] California Department of Fish and Game. (2011). Special Animals List. Retrieved on August 1, 2012 from: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/spanimals.pdf>.
- [FR] U.S. Office of the Federal Register. 2013. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, final rule (50 CFR Part 17). *Federal Register* 78:2(3 January 2013): 344—532. from: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/documents/speciesdocs/swwf/fch2013/swwf_fch_fr_final.pdf.
- Sawyer, J.O., Keeler-Wolf, T., and Evens, J.M. (2009). *A Manual of California Vegetation*, 2nd Edition. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.
- Sogge, M.K., Ahlers, Darrell, and Sferra, S.J. (2010). *A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 2A-10*, 38 pp.

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Appendix A

Completed Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Forms

Appendix 1. Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Form

Always check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Ecological Services Field Office web site (<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>) for the most up-to-date version.

Willow Flycatcher (WIFL) Survey and Detection Form (revised April 2010)

Site Name Santa Ana River F-10 Improvement State CA County San Bernardino
USGS Quad Name San Bernardino South Elevation 290-300 (meters)
Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake Name Santa Ana River

Is copy of USGS map marked with survey area and WIFL sightings attached (as required)? Yes X No

Survey Coordinates: Start: E 437070 N 3769881 UTM Datum NAD83 (See instructions)
Stop: E 472311 N 3769480 UTM Zone 11N

If survey coordinates changed between visits, enter coordinates for each survey in comments section on back of this page.

**** Fill in additional site information on back of this page ****

Survey # Observer(s) (Full Name)	Date (m/d/y) Survey time	Number of Adult WIFLs	Estimated Number of Pairs	Estimated Number of Territories	Nest(s) Found? Y or N If Yes, number of nests	Comments (e.g., bird behavior; evidence of pairs or breeding; potential threats (livestock, cowbirds, <i>Diorhabda</i> spp.). If <i>Diorhabda</i> found, contact USFWS and State WIFL coordinator	GPS Coordinates for WIFL Detections (this is an optional column for documenting individuals, pairs, or groups of birds found on each survey). Include additional sheets if necessary.																				
Survey # 1 Observer(s) Benjamin Smith	Date 5/31/ Start 0925 Stop 1040 Total hrs 2.25	2	0	0	N	1 WIFL in riparian vegetation POFR, SAGO, SAEX, ARDO. 1 WIFL in POFR, SAGO BASA, SAEX	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Birds</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>UTM E</th> <th>UTM N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>473211</td> <td>3769717</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>472264</td> <td>3769650</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N	1		473211	3769717	1		472264	3769650								
# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																								
1		473211	3769717																								
1		472264	3769650																								
Survey # 2 Observer(s) Benjamin Smith	Date 6/5 Start 0715 Stop 1030 Total hrs 3.25	0	0	0	N		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Birds</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>UTM E</th> <th>UTM N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																
# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																								
Survey # 3 Observer(s) Benjamin Smith	Date 6/12 Start 0710 Stop 1025 Total hrs 3.25	2	0	0	N	1 response in POFR, SAGO BASA, ARDO 1 response, ve r- SAGO, POFR, BASA along river	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Birds</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>UTM E</th> <th>UTM N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>472944</td> <td>3769761</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>473015</td> <td>3769815</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N	1		472944	3769761	1		473015	3769815								
# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																								
1		472944	3769761																								
1		473015	3769815																								
Survey # 4 Observer(s) Benjamin Smith / Carley Lancaster	Date 6/25 Start 0700 Stop 1005 Total hrs 3	0	0	0	N		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Birds</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>UTM E</th> <th>UTM N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																
# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																								
Survey # 5 Observer(s) Benjamin Smith	Date 7/14 Start 0645 Stop 1005 Total hrs 3.25						<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># Birds</th> <th>Sex</th> <th>UTM E</th> <th>UTM N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																
# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N																								
Overall Site Summary Totals do not equal the sum of each column. Include only resident adults. Do not include migrants, nestlings, and fledglings. Be careful not to double count individuals. Total Survey Hrs 15		Total Adult Residents	Total Pairs	Total Territories	Total Nests	<p>Were any Willow Flycatchers color-banded? Yes <u> </u> No <u>X</u></p> <p>If yes, report color combination(s) in the comments section on back of form and report to USFWS.</p>																					

Reporting Individual Benjamin Smith Date Report Completed 8/8/13
US Fish and Wildlife Service Permit # TE-67390-A State Wildlife Agency Permit # 10933
Submit form to USFWS and State Wildlife Agency by September 1st. Retain a copy for your records.

32 A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Fill in the following information completely. Submit form by September 1st. Retain a copy for your records.

Reporting Individual Benjamin Smith Phone # 714-651-3001
Affiliation ECORP Consulting, Inc. E-mail bsmith@ecorpconsulting.com
Site Name Santa Ana River I-10 Improvements Date Report Completed 8/6/13
Was this site surveyed in a previous year? Yes ☐ No ☒ Unknown ☐
Did you verify that this site name is consistent with that used in previous years? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒
If site name is different, what name(s) was used in the past? _____
If site was surveyed last year, did you survey the same general area this year? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, summarize below.
Did you survey the same general area during each visit to this site this year? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, summarize below.

Management Authority for Survey Area: Federal ☐ Municipal/County ☒ State ☐ Tribal ☐ Private ☐
Name of Management Entity or Owner (e.g., Tonto National Forest) San Bernardino County

Length of area surveyed: 0.9 (km)

Vegetation Characteristics: Check (only one) category that best describes the predominant tree/shrub foliar layer at this site:

- ☒ Native broadleaf plants (entirely or almost entirely, > 90% native)
☐ Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native, 50 - 90% native)
☐ Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic, 50 - 90% exotic)
☐ Exotic/introduced plants (entirely or almost entirely, > 90% exotic)

Identify the 2-3 predominant tree/shrub species in order of dominance. Use scientific names.

Salix gooddingii, Populus fremontii, Baccharis salicifolia

Average height of canopy (Do not include a range): 10 m (meters)

Attach the following: 1) copy of USGS quad/topographical map (REQUIRED) of survey area, outlining survey site and location of WIFL detections; 2) sketch or aerial photo showing site location, patch shape, survey route, location of any detected WIFLs or their nests; 3) photos of the interior of the patch, exterior of the patch, and overall site. Describe any unique habitat features in Comments.

Comments (such as start and end coordinates of survey area if changed among surveys, supplemental visits to sites, unique habitat features. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Habitat near the project impact area is very limited. Suitable habitat is located northeast of the project area to determine if post-breeding dispersal and SWIFC would potentially be affected.

Territory Summary Table. Provide the following information for each verified territory at your site.

Territory Number	All Dates Detected	UTM E	UTM N	Pair Confirmed? Y or N	Nest Found? Y or N	Description of How You Confirmed Territory and Breeding Status (e.g., vocalization type, pair interactions, nesting attempts, behavior)

Attach additional sheets if necessary

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Appendix B

Wildlife Compendium

Scientific Name	Common Name
Amphibians	
Pipidae	Tongueless Frogs
<i>Xenopus laevis</i> *	African clawed frog*
Reptiles	
Phrynosomatidae	Spiny Lizards
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	common side-blotched lizard
Birds	
Anatidae	Ducks, Geese, and Swans
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
Ardeidae	Herons, Bitterns, Allies
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	great blue heron
Accipitridae	Hawks, Kites, Eagles, Allies
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk
Charadriidae	Lapwings, Plovers
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	killdeer
Columbidae	Pigeons, Doves
<i>Columba livia</i> *	rock pigeon*
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Apodidae	Swifts
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
Trochilidae	Hummingbirds
<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	black-chinned hummingbird
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Allen's hummingbird
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
Falconidae	Falcons
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American kestrel
Picidae	Woodpeckers
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	downy woodpecker
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's woodpecker
Tyrannidae	Tyrant Flycatchers
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	western kingbird
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	willow flycatcher
<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	western wood-pewee
Vireonidae	Vireos
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> **	least Bell's vireo**
Corvidae	Crows, Jays
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven
Hirundinidae	Swallows
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	cliff swallow
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	northern rough-winged swallow
Aegithalidae	Long-tailed tits, Bushtits

I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report

<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
Troglodytidae	Wrens
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
Polioptilidae	Gnatcatchers
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	blue-gray gnatcatcher
Turdidae	Thrushes
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	western bluebird
Mimidae	Mockingbirds, Thrashers
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California thrasher
Sturnidae	Starlings
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> *	European starling*
Parulidae	Wood Warblers
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	common yellowthroat
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> **	yellow warbler**
Emberizidae	Emberizids
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow
Cardinalidae	Cardinals, Saltators, Allies
<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	blue grosbeak
Icteridae	Blackbirds
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	brown-headed cowbird
<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
Fringillidae	Fringilline and Cardueline Finches, Allies
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American goldfinch
Passeridae	Old World Sparrows
<i>Passer domesticus</i> *	house sparrow*
Mammals	
Canidae	Dogs, Foxes, Allies
<i>Canis familiaris</i> *	domestic dog*
Felidae	Cats
<i>Felis catus</i> *	domestic cat*
Leporidae	Pika, Rabbits, and Hares
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	desert cottontail
Sciuridae	Squirrels
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel

*nonnative species

**special status species

I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report

Appendix C
Survey Photographs



Photograph 1. Fremont cottonwood forest (*Populus fremontii* Alliance) transitioning into California sagebrush – California buckwheat scrub (*Artemisia californica* – *Eriogonum fasciculatum* Alliance) in the southwestern portion of the survey area.



Photograph 2. Black willow thickets (*Salix gooddingii* Alliance) along the south side of the river in the western portion of the survey area.

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Photograph 3. Black willow thickets in the central portion of the survey area.



Photograph 4. Black willow thickets and mulefat thickets (*Baccharis salicifolia* Alliance) along the south side of the river in the western portion of the survey area.

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Photograph 5. Black willow thickets and mulefat thickets along the south side of the river in the western portion of the survey area.



Photograph 6. Mulefat thickets along the south side of the river in the western portion of the survey area.

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Photograph 7. Mulefat thickets in the central portion of the survey area.



Photograph 8. Mulefat thickets in the central portion of the survey area.

I-10 Corridor Project 2013 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Report



Photograph 9. Graffiti in the central portion of the survey area.



Photograph 10. Graffiti in the central portion of the survey area.

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Photograph 11. Santa Ana River woollystar (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*) in the central portion of the survey area.



Photograph 12. Santa Ana River woollystar in the central portion of the survey area.

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Appendix D Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey Report

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ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

July 10, 2013
(2013-011)

Carlsbad Fish & Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Attn: Susie Tharratt, Recovery Permit Coordinator

RE: 45-day Results Summary of 2012 Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) Surveys for the Interstate 10 Freeway Corridor Project in the City of Redlands, San Bernardino County.

Dear Ms. Tharratt:

ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) is providing the results for the 2013 breeding season protocol surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN; *Poliophtila californica californica*). Focused surveys to identify CAGN territories and nest locations were conducted at along portions of the Interstate 10 Freeway (I-10) within suitable habitat near proposed construction sites for the east and westbound High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes (Project) on I-10. The portion of the I-10 surveyed is located in the City of Redlands in San Bernardino County.

A United States Fish and Wildlife Service permitted biologist conducted weekly surveys to locate CAGN on site. Surveys were conducted within the Project areas (Project), within a 300-foot buffer around the Project. A notification letter was sent via email on April 2, 2013 to notify the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) of the start of weekly protocol surveys at the Project site.

Methods

Focused, protocol-level gnatcatcher surveys were conducted by federal 10(a)(1)(A) permitted ECORP biologist Shannan Shaffer (TE67555A-0) in 2013. Focused gnatcatcher surveys were conducted in accordance with 1997 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Six surveys were conducted at least on week apart between April 17 and June 20 to determine the distribution and abundance of gnatcatchers within the project site. Weather conditions met USFWS survey protocol requirements designed to optimize gnatcatcher detections.

Weather conditions that were too cold (less than 45 degrees Fahrenheit), too hot (greater than 95 degrees Fahrenheit), or too windy (greater than 15 miles per hour) were avoided. Surveys were conducted by slowly walking through all appropriate habitats while listening and watching for gnatcatcher activity. Recordings of gnatcatcher vocalizations were played as an attempt to elicit responses from any gnatcatchers present. Various routes were utilized in order to conduct an unbiased presence/absence survey of the project site, and recorded vocalizations of CAGN were played for 5-15 second intervals every 40-80 feet. Less than 100 acres of suitable habitat was systematically surveyed per day for gnatcatcher presence. For each focused survey, the general weather conditions, date, start and end times, and all wildlife species observed during the surveys were documented on data sheets.

Results

A total of 6 CAGN surveys were conducted between April 17 and June 20, 2013. Table 1 summarizes the survey conditions during each of the surveys at the project site.

Table 1: Summary of CAGN Surveys and Weather Conditions

Survey #	2013 Date	Surveyor*	Time		Temperature (°F)		% Cloud Cover		Wind Speed (mph)	
			Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
1	April 17	SLS	0845	1130	48	63	0	0	0-2	4-7
2	April 26	SLS	0855	1135	58	68	50	15	3-5	3-5
3	May 3	SLS	0855	1135	74	78	0	0	1-3	3-5
4	May 17	SLS	0855	1135	55	58	100	100	3-7	3-7
5	May 29	SLS	0835	1050	67	76	70	0	2-4	3-5
6	June 20	SLS	0900	1150	72	86	0	0	0-2	0-2

*SLS: Shannan Shaffer

No California gnatcatchers were identified within the proposed project area during the 2013 focused surveys. Additionally, Critical Habitat for species is not present within the project area. Proposed project-related activities are not expected to impact CAGN or designated Critical Habitat for CAGN. Based on these survey results, no recommendations for the recovery of the species are recommended at this time.

Please contact Shannan Shaffer at (714) 648-0630 should you have any questions concerning these survey results.

Regards,



Shannan Shaffer
Wildlife Biologist

Surveyor's Certification Statement

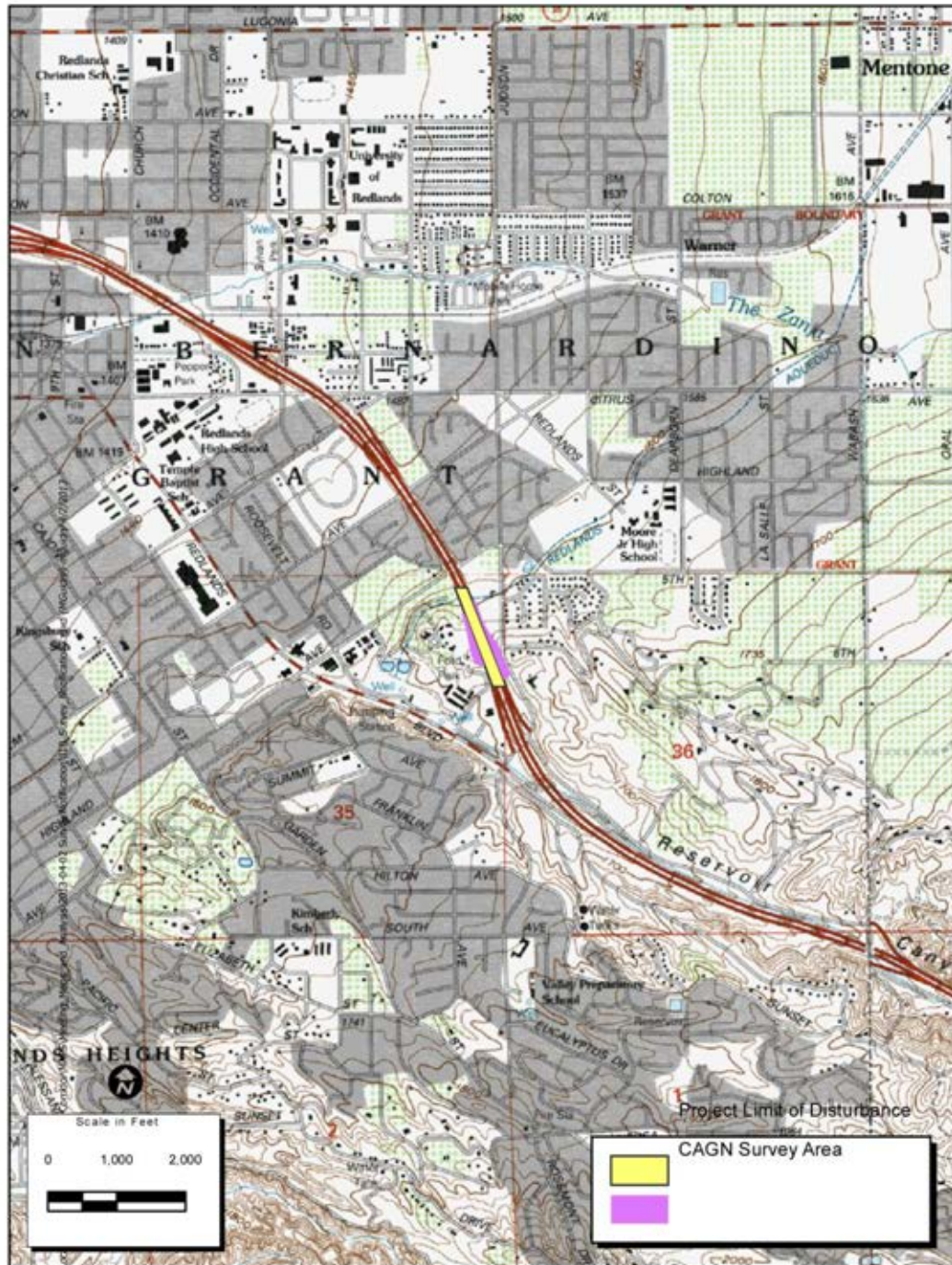
"I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work."



Signature _____ (Shannan Shaffer, TE- 67555A-0) Date July 10, 2013

Attachments:

Figure 1: Protocol CAGN Survey Area
Survey Data Sheets



CAGN Survey Locations

PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET **for Coastal California Gnatcatcher** *(Poliophtila californica californica)*

[illegible]

[] CNDDDB form

cagn field data sheets

FIELD DATA SHEET CONTINUATION

[illegible]

* 1 = individual, 2 = rare, 3 = frequent, 4 = common, 5 = abundant

[illegible]

* B = burrow, C = carcass, Fe = feathers, Fu = fur, N = nest, O = observed, S = scat, T = tracks, V = vocalization

cagn field data sheets

PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET **for Coastal California Gnatcatcher** *(Poliophtila californica californica)*

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cagn field data sheets

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PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET
for Coastal California Gnatcatcher
(Poliophtila californica californica)

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cagn field data sheets

PROJECT NAME & SITE #	I-10 Corridor CAGN	Date: 5/3/13	Page No. 2
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* 1 = individual, 2 = rare, 3 = frequent, 4 = common, 5 = abundant

* B = burrow, C = carcass, Fe = feathers, Fu = fur, N = nest, O = observed, S = scat, T = tracks, V = vocalization

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PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET
for Coastal California Gnatcatcher
(Poliophtila californica californica)

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[] CNDDDB form

cagn field data sheets

FIELD DATA SHEET CONTINUATION

[illegible]

* 1 = individual, 2 = rare, 3 = frequent, 4 = common, 5 = abundant

WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES			
Species	Sign*	Species	Sign*
NOMO	✓		
CALT	OV		
BLPH	O		
AMCR	D		

* B = burrow, C = carcass, Fe = feathers, Fu = fur, N = nest, O = observed, S = scat, T = tracks, V = vocalization

PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET
for Coastal California Gnatcatcher
(Poliophtila californica californica)

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cagn field data sheets

FIELD DATA SHEET CONTINUATION

[illegible]

* 1 = individual, 2 = rare, 3 = frequent, 4 = common, 5 = abundant

WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES			
Species	Sign*	Species	Sign*
ANHU	0		
CORA	0 V		
AMCR	0 V		
ROPI	0		
NOMO	V		
BLPH	0		
RTHA	0		

* B = burrow, C = carcass, Fe = feathers, Fu = fur, N = nest, O = observed, S = scat, T = tracks, V = vocalization

cagn field data sheets

PROTOCOL SURVEY DATA SHEET
for Coastal California Gnatcatcher
(Poliophtila californica californica)

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cagn field data sheets

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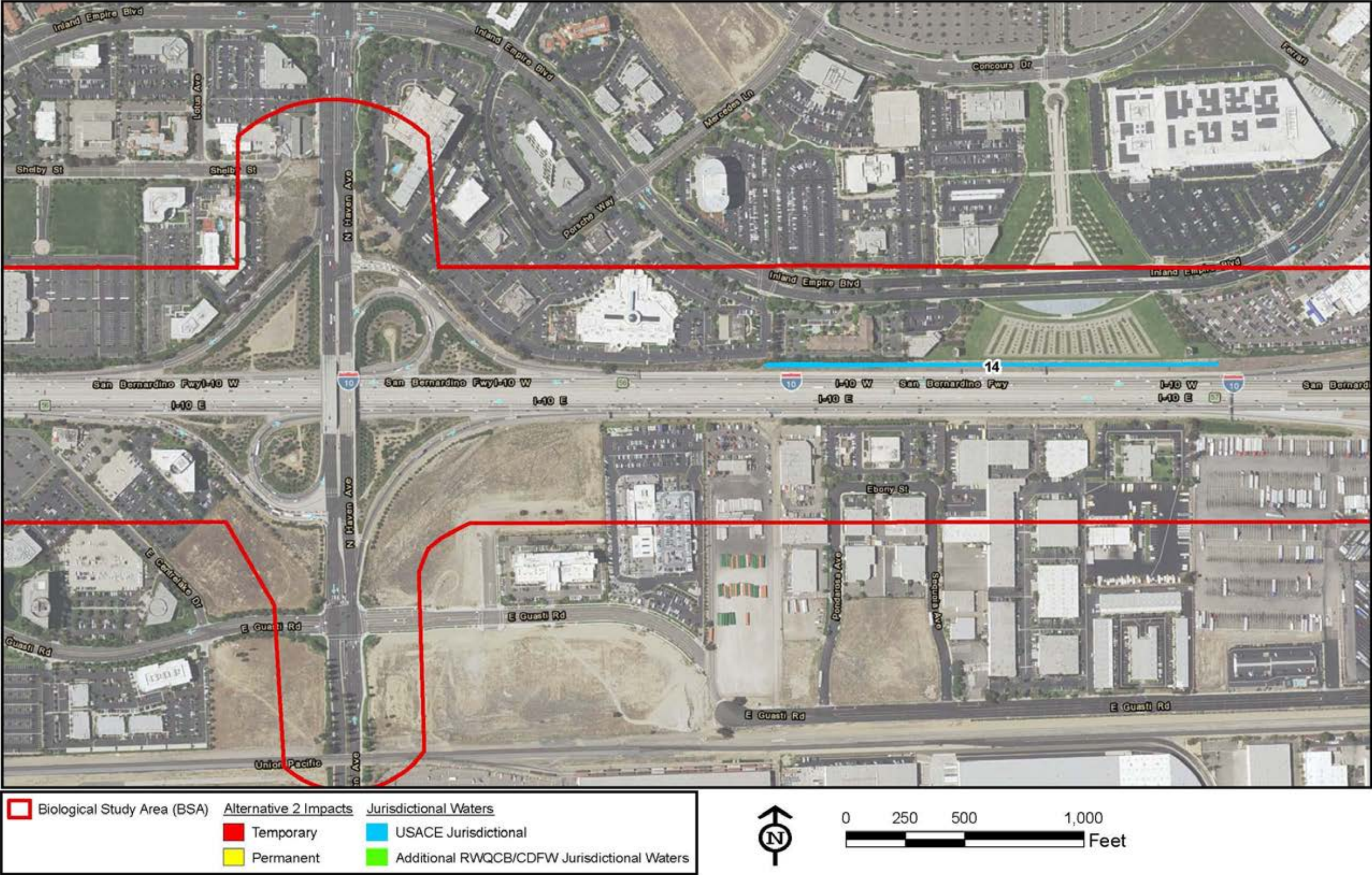
Appendix E Jurisdictional Delineation Report

The Jurisdictional Delineation Report is provided in this submittal under separate cover.

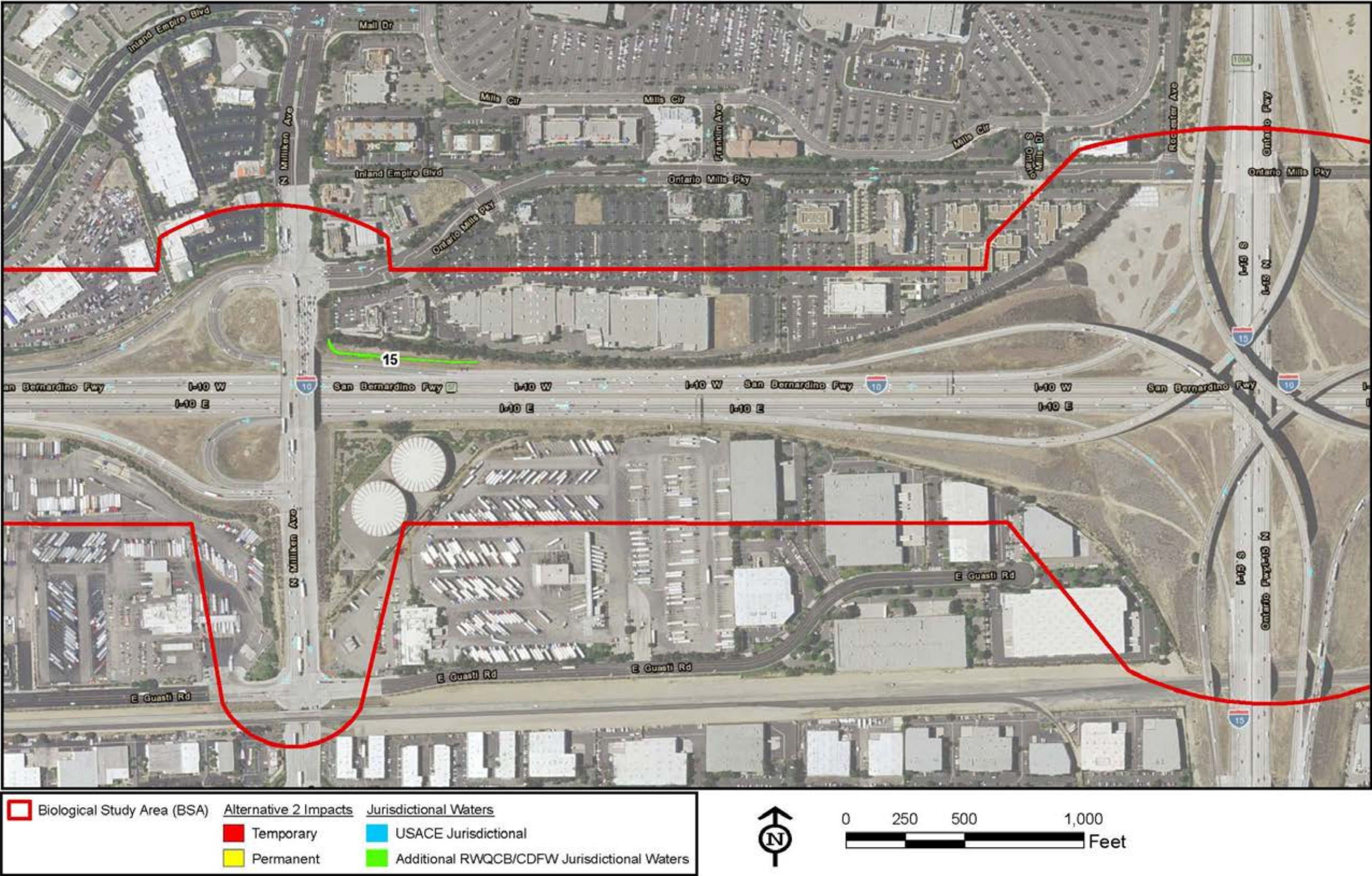
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Appendix F Jurisdictional Waters Impact Mapping for Alternative 2

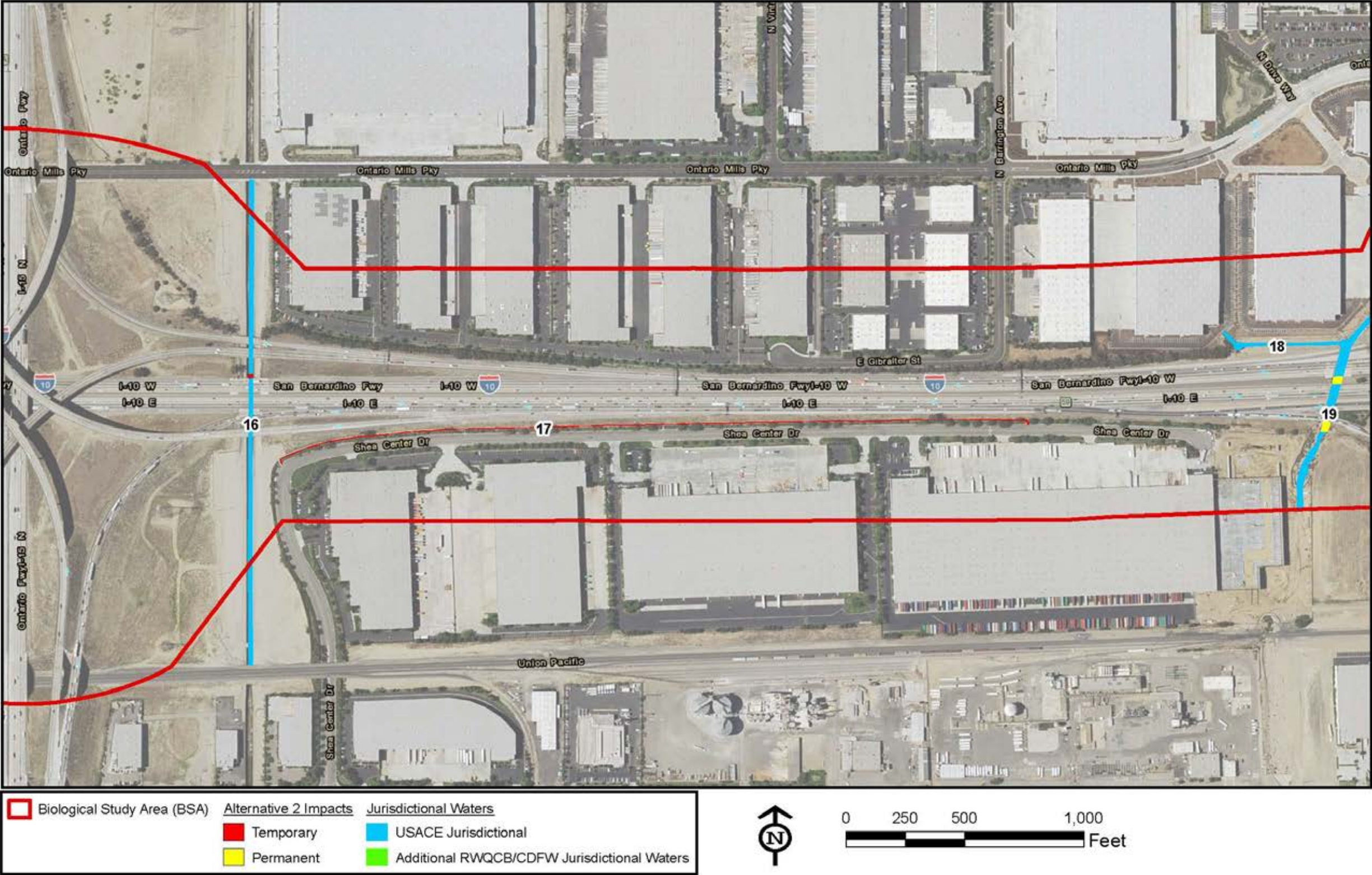
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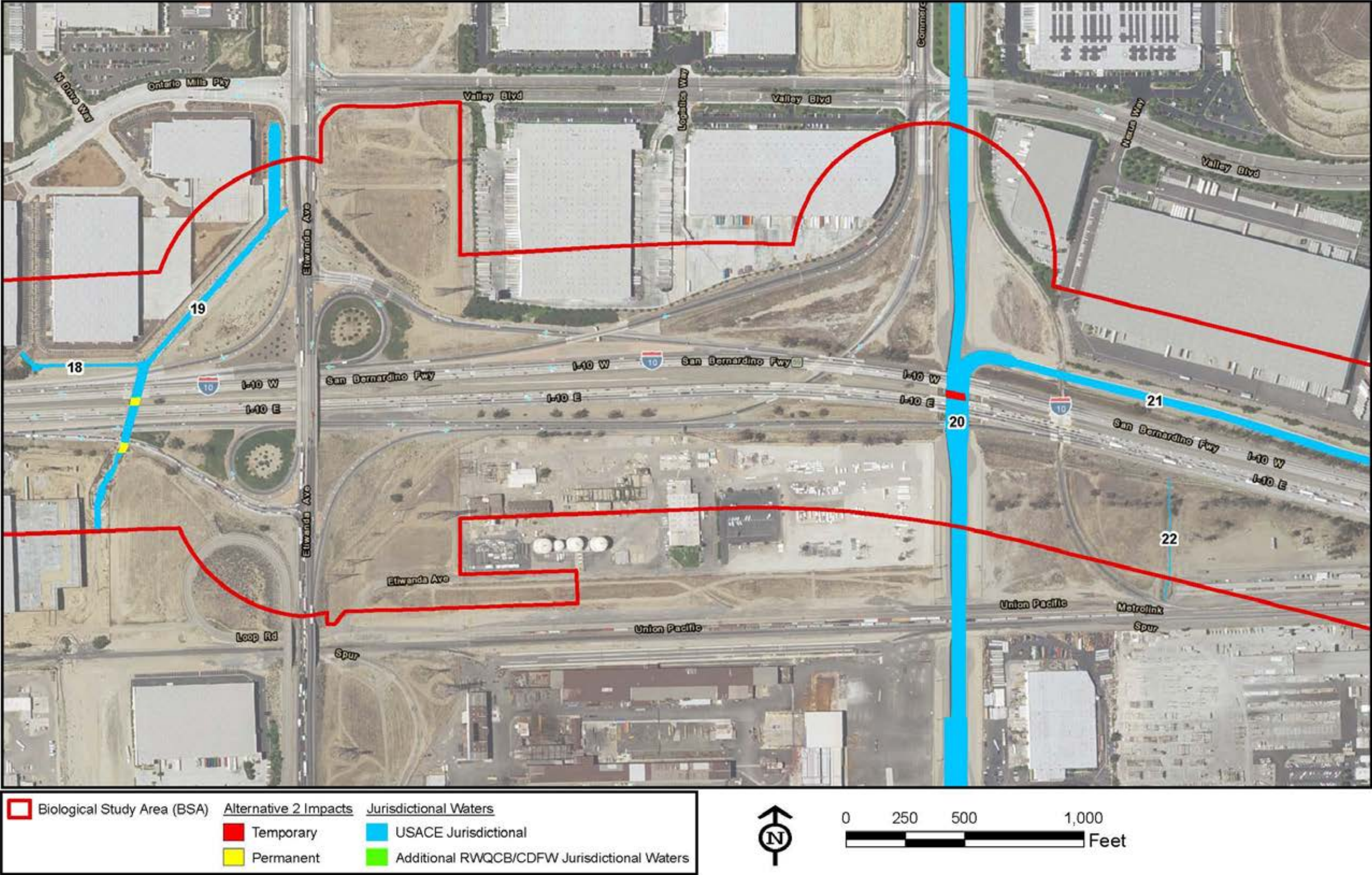
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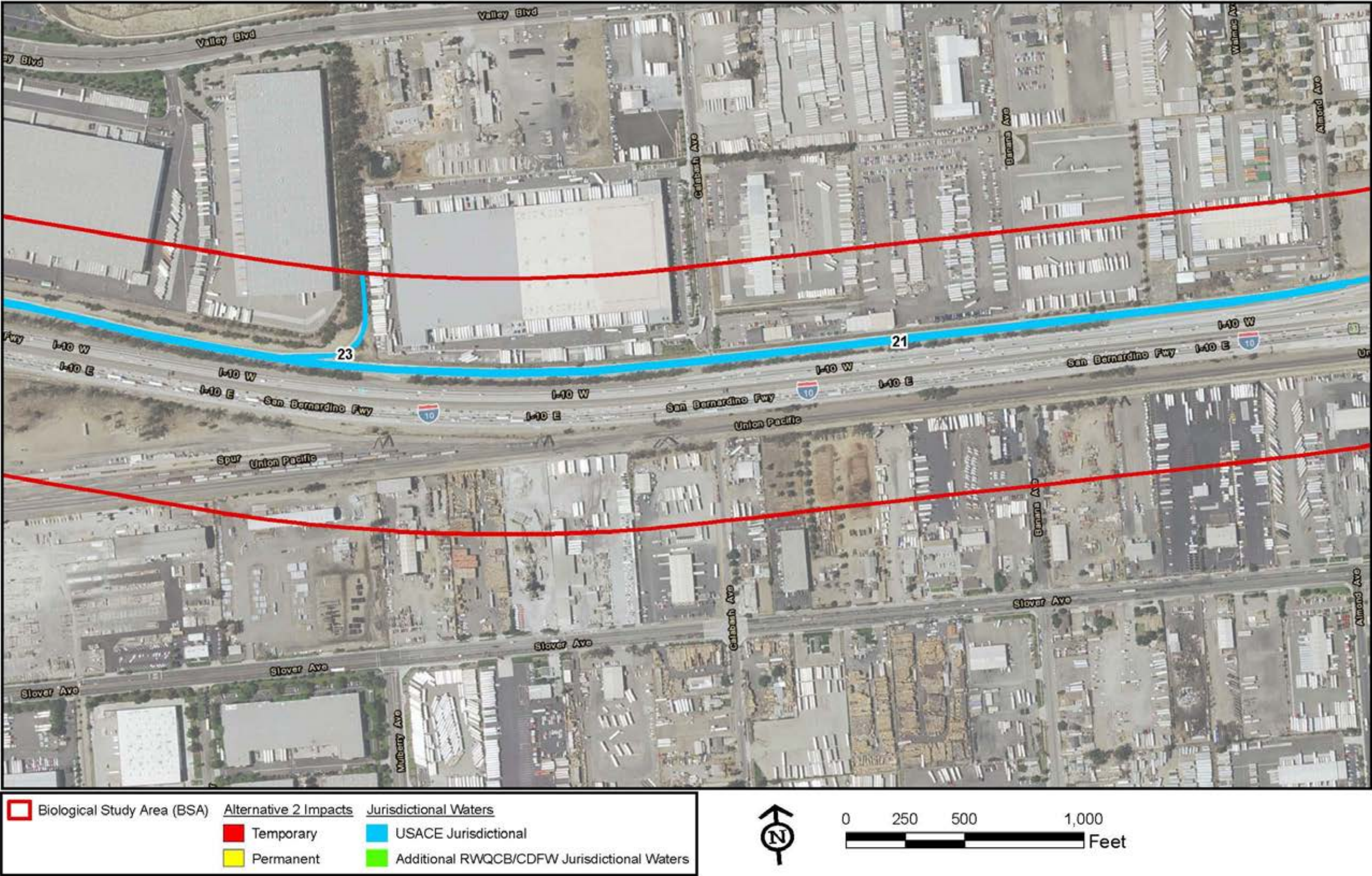
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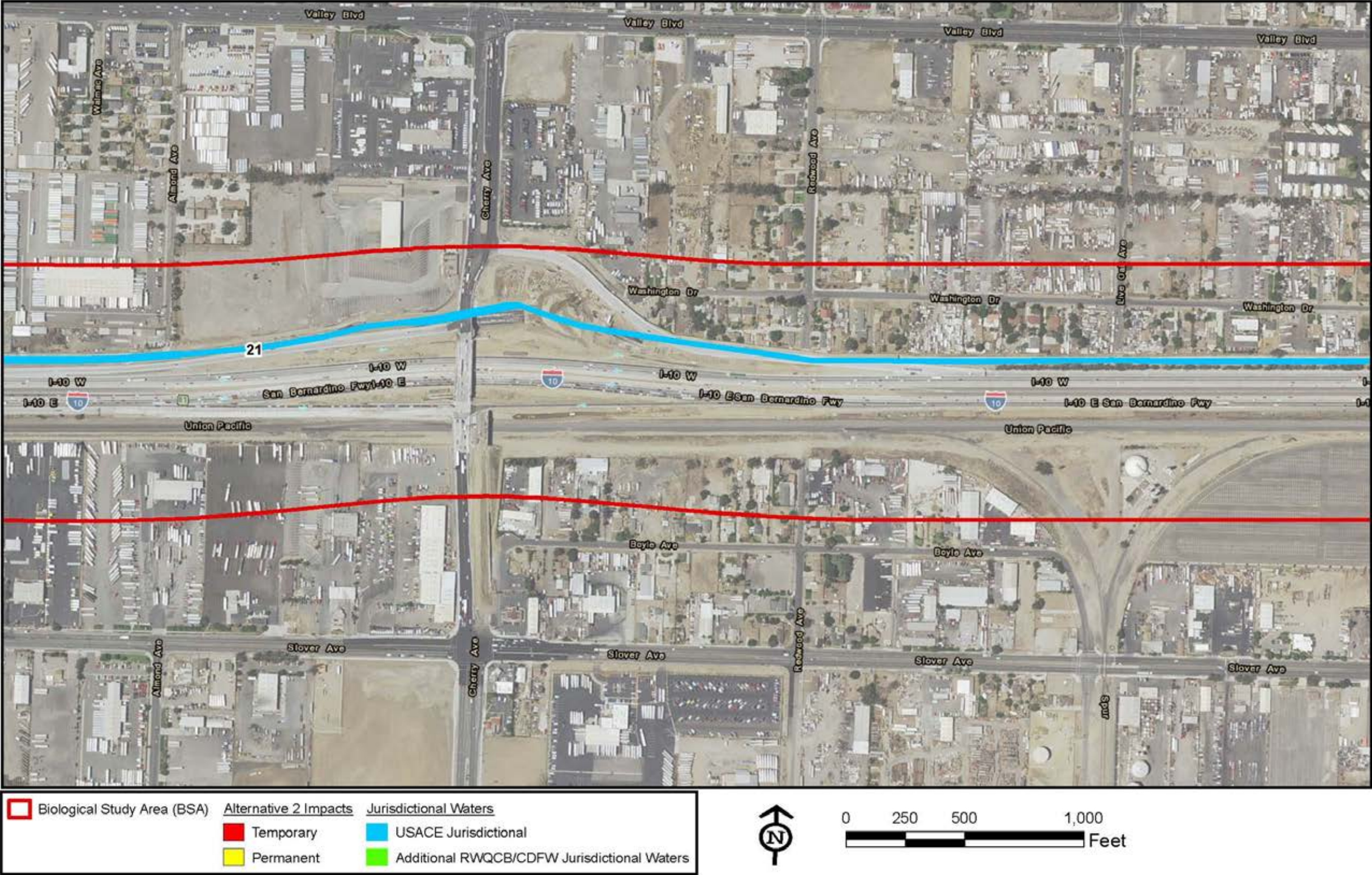
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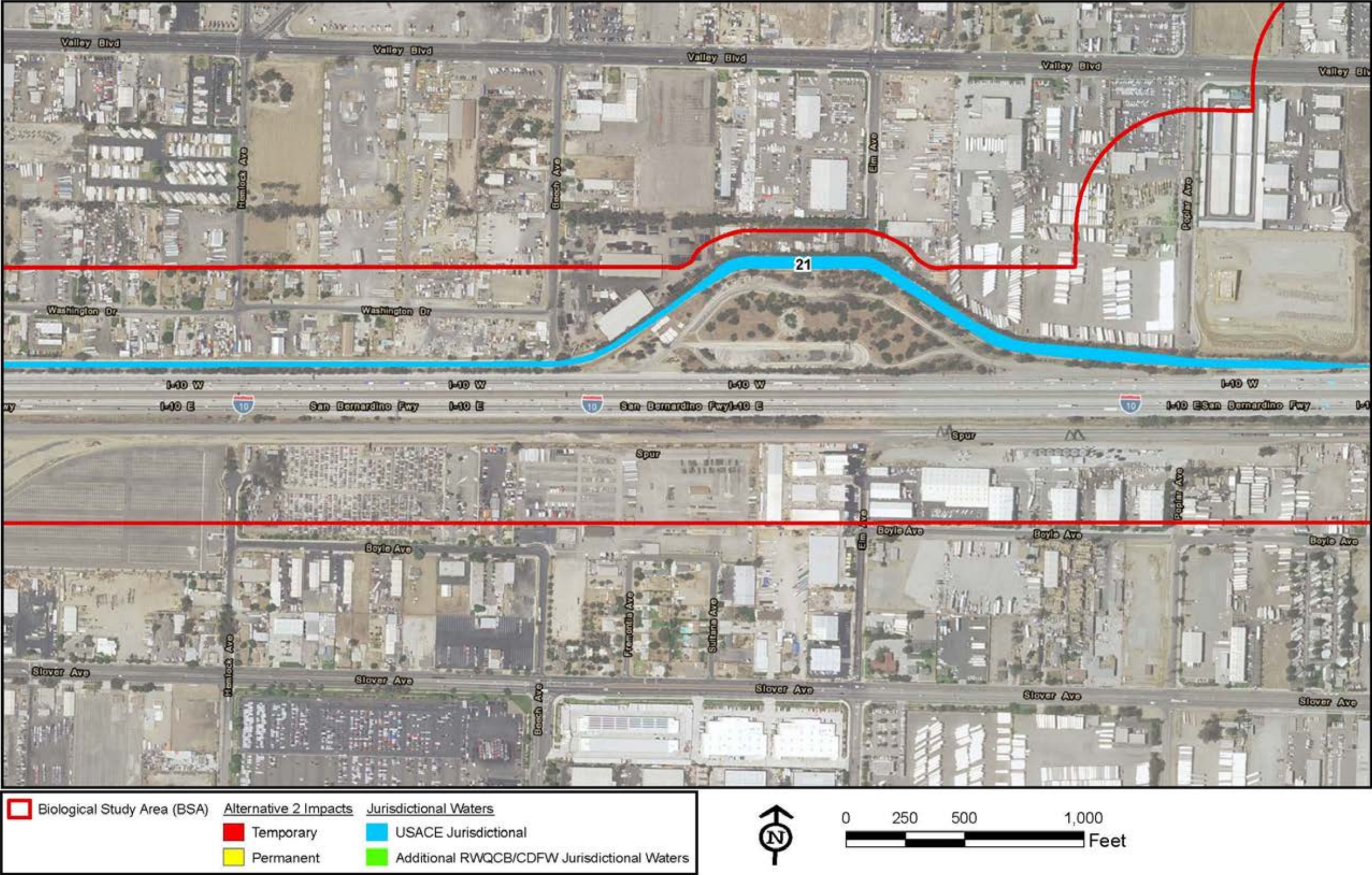
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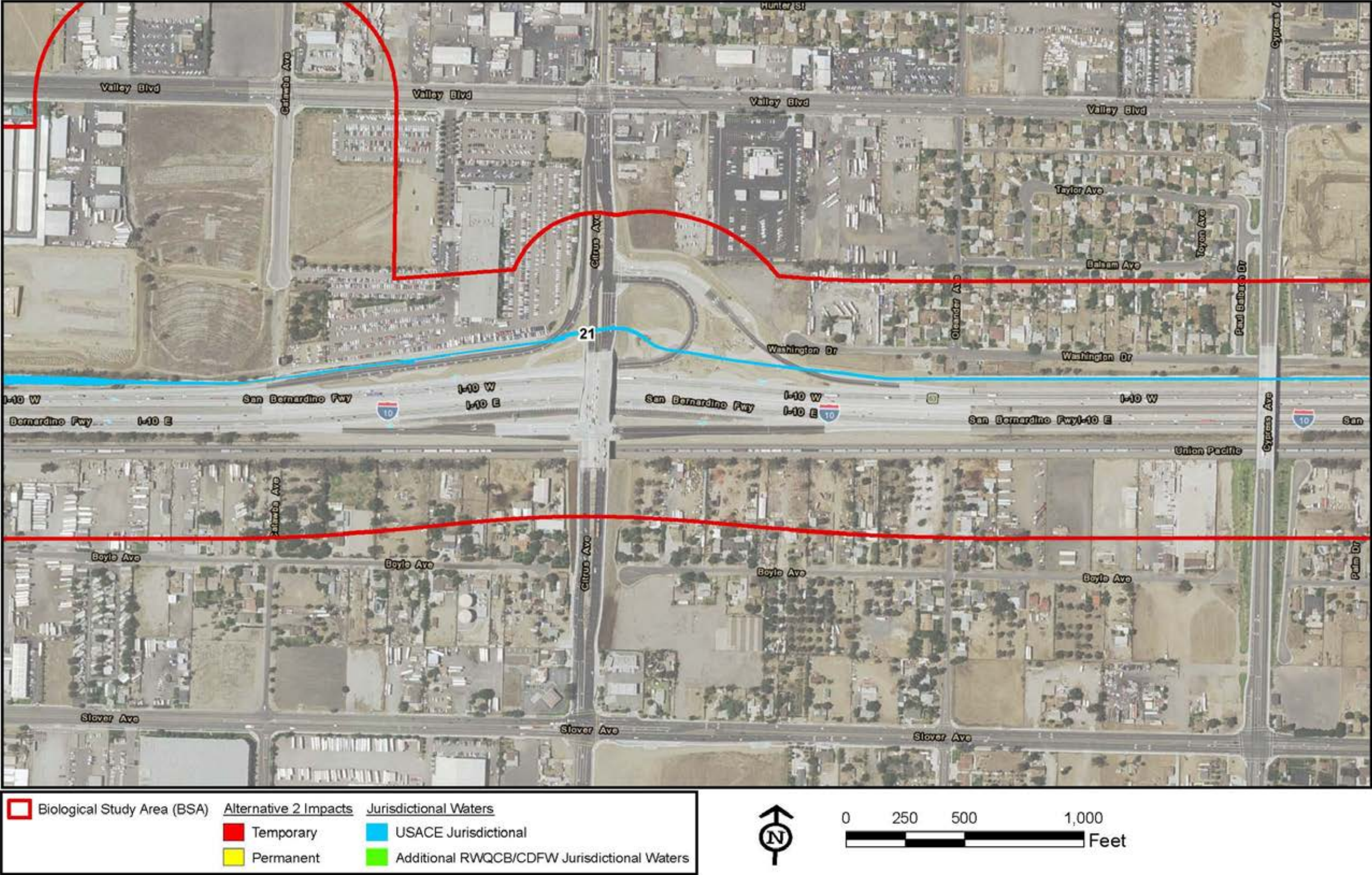
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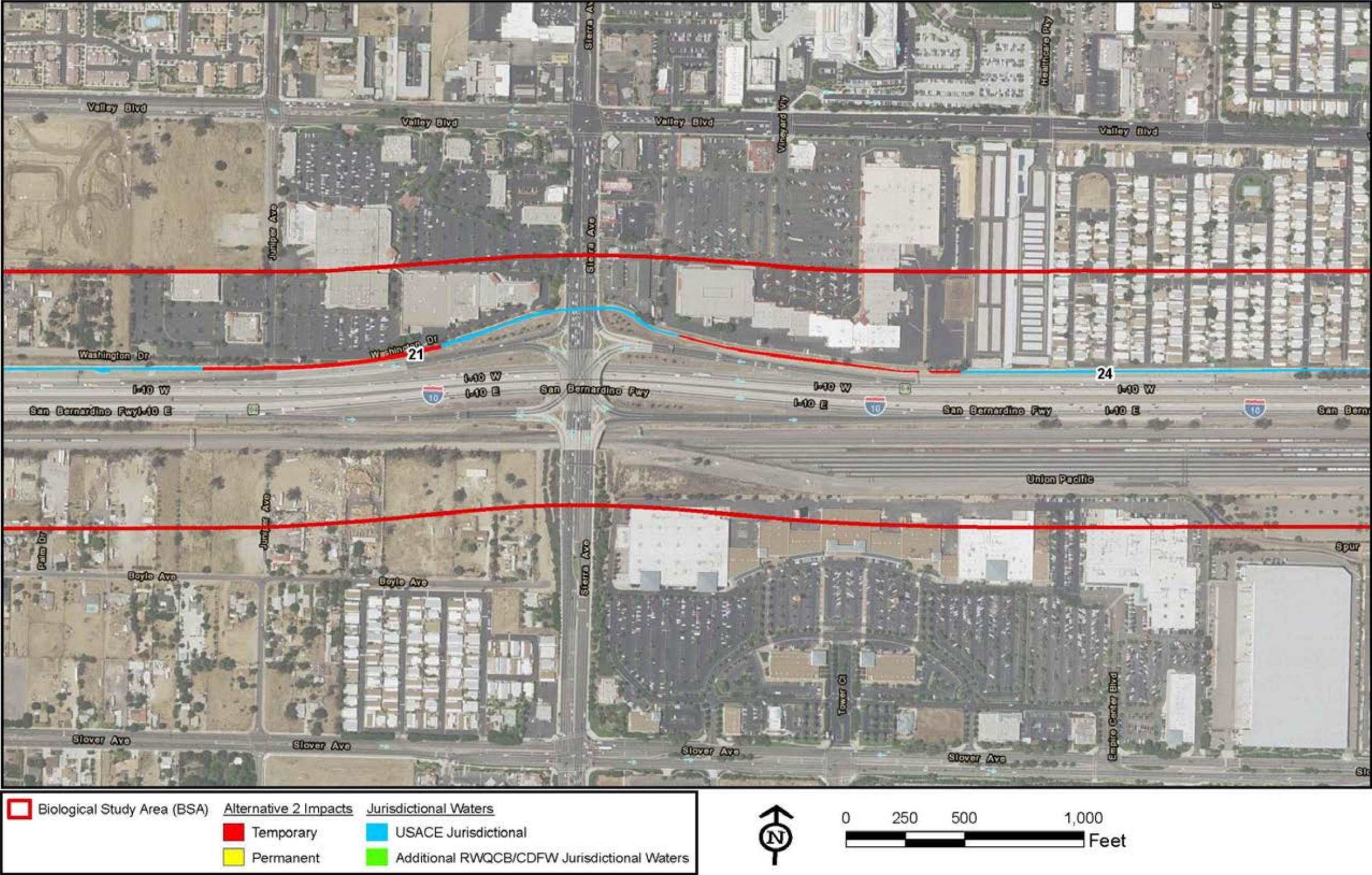
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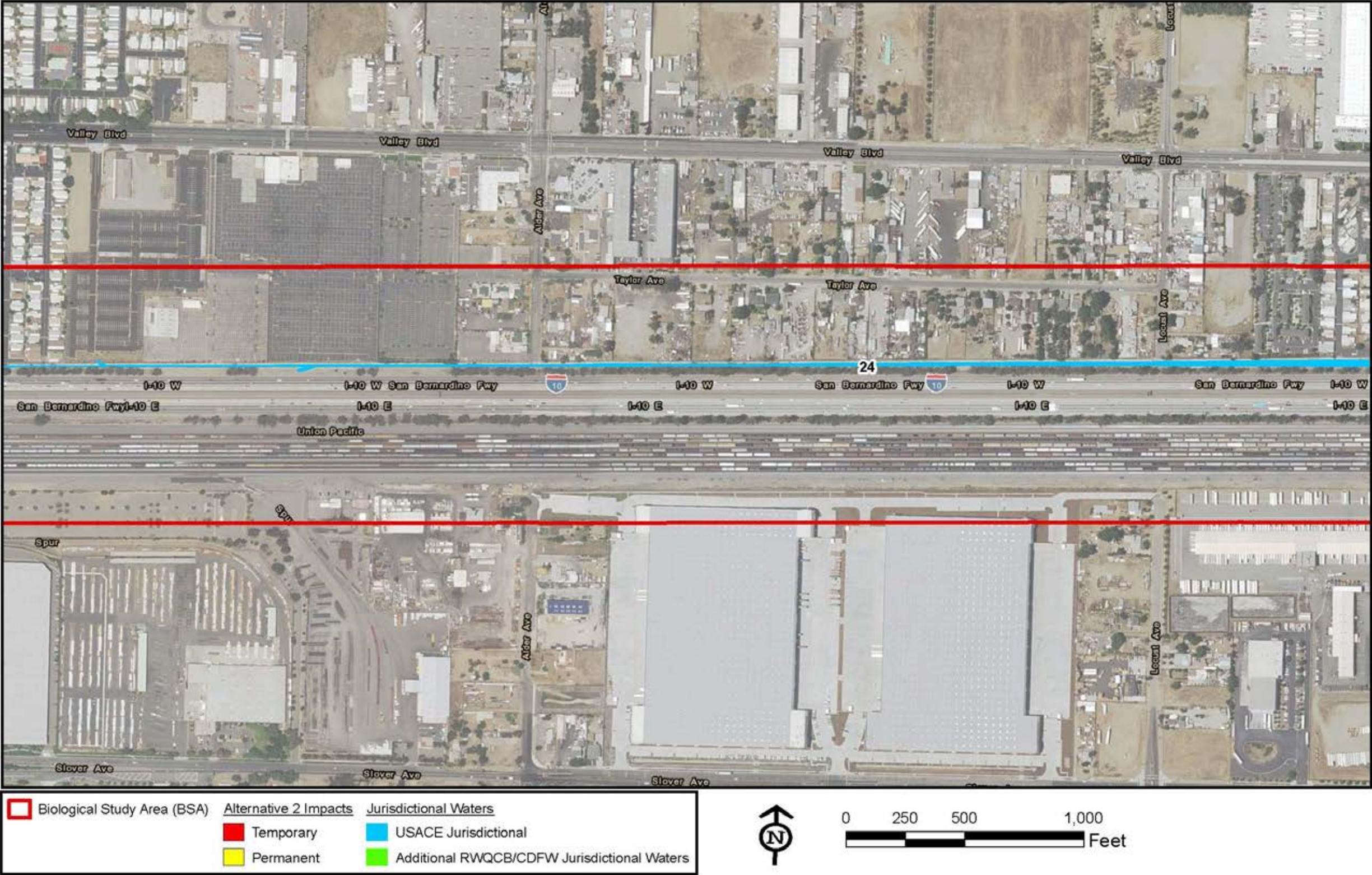
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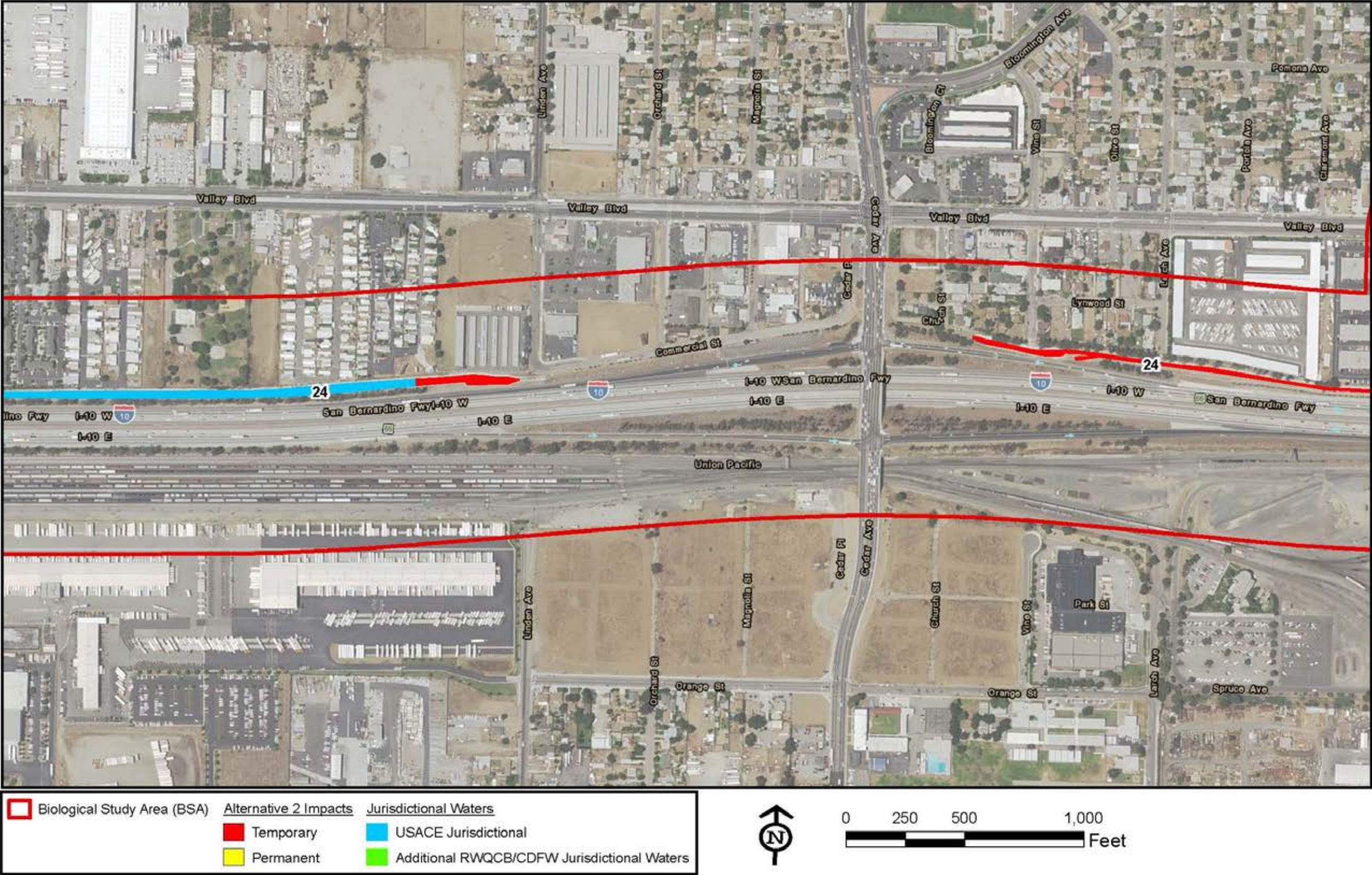
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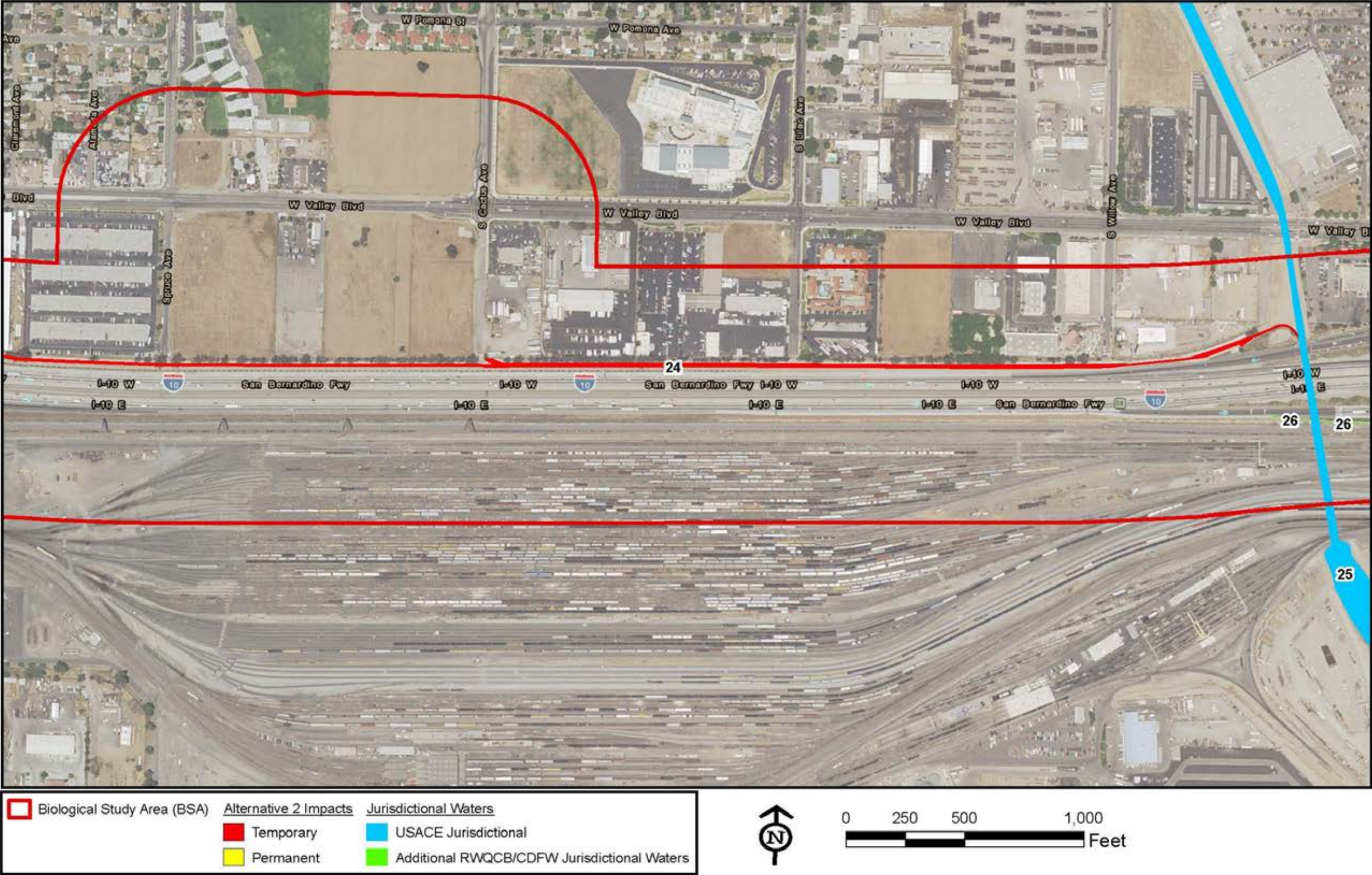
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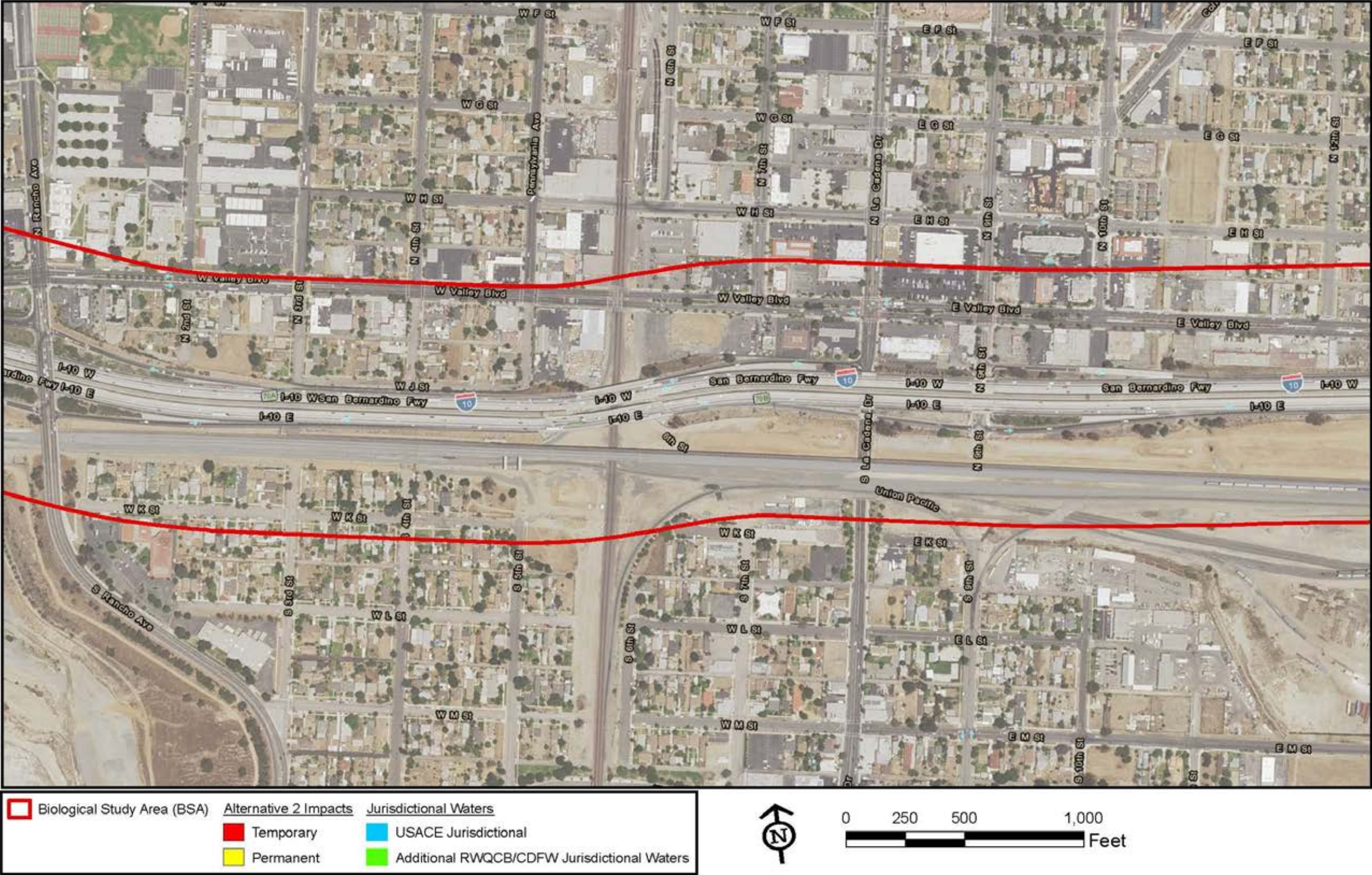
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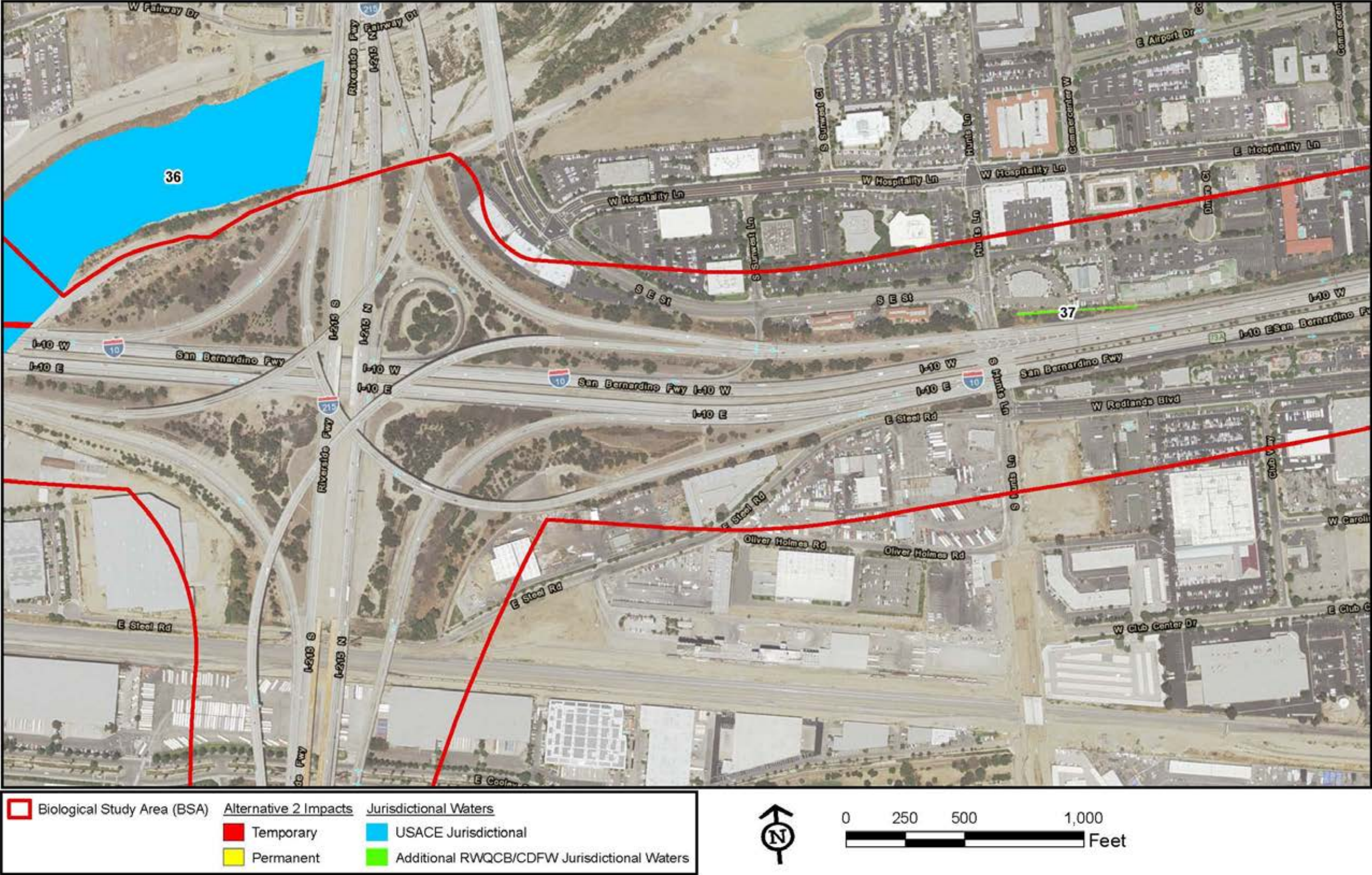
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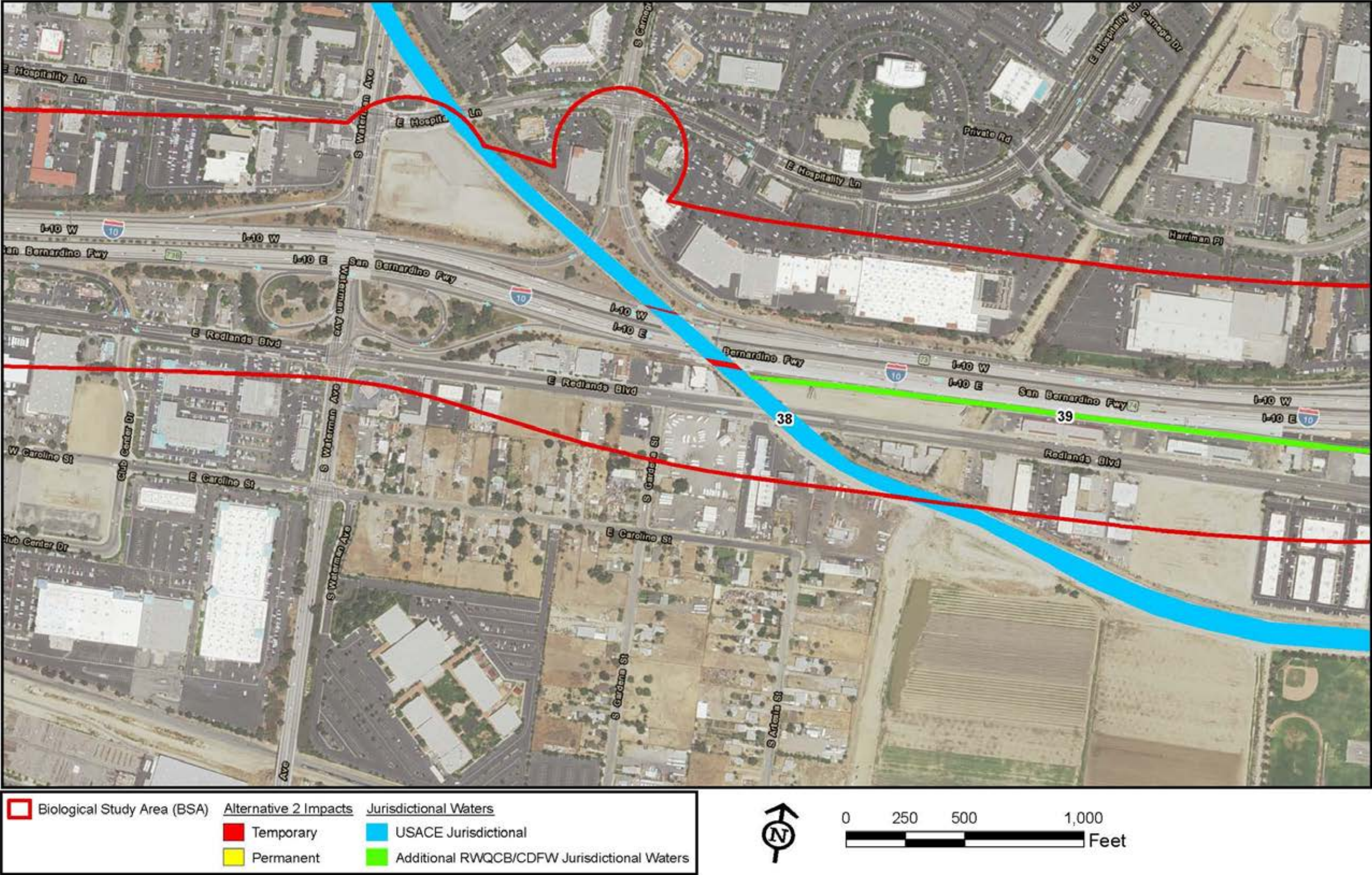


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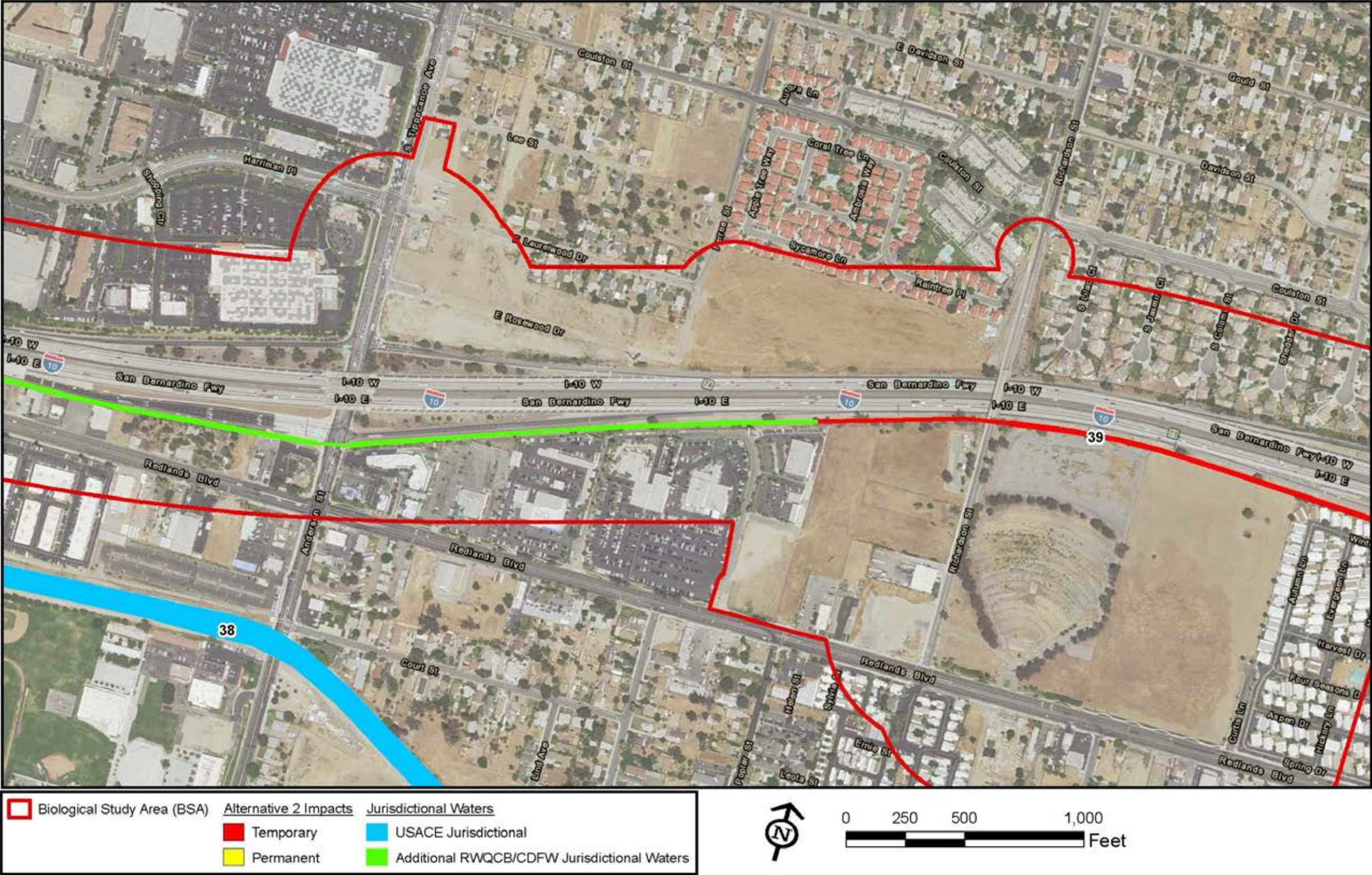
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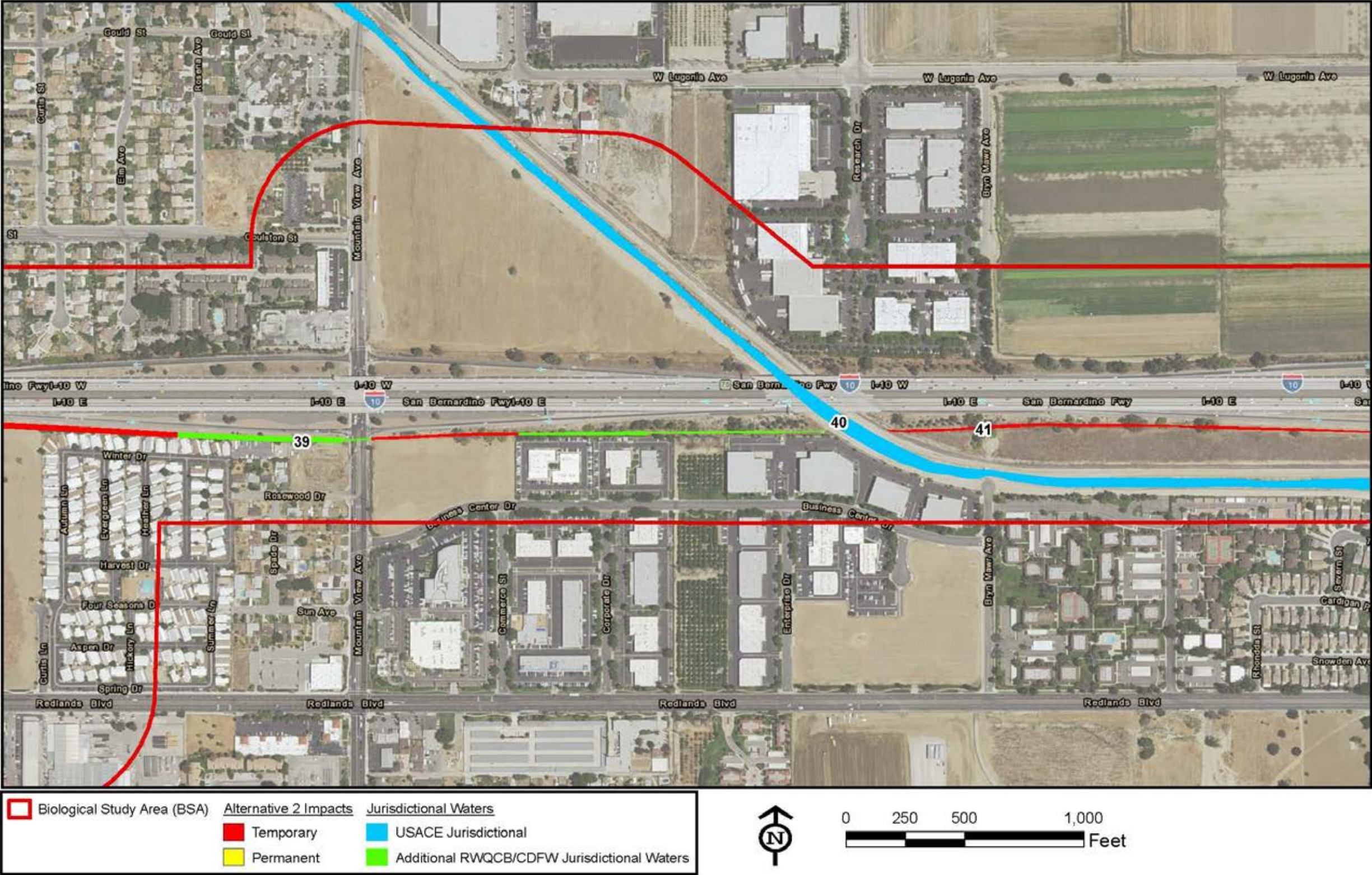
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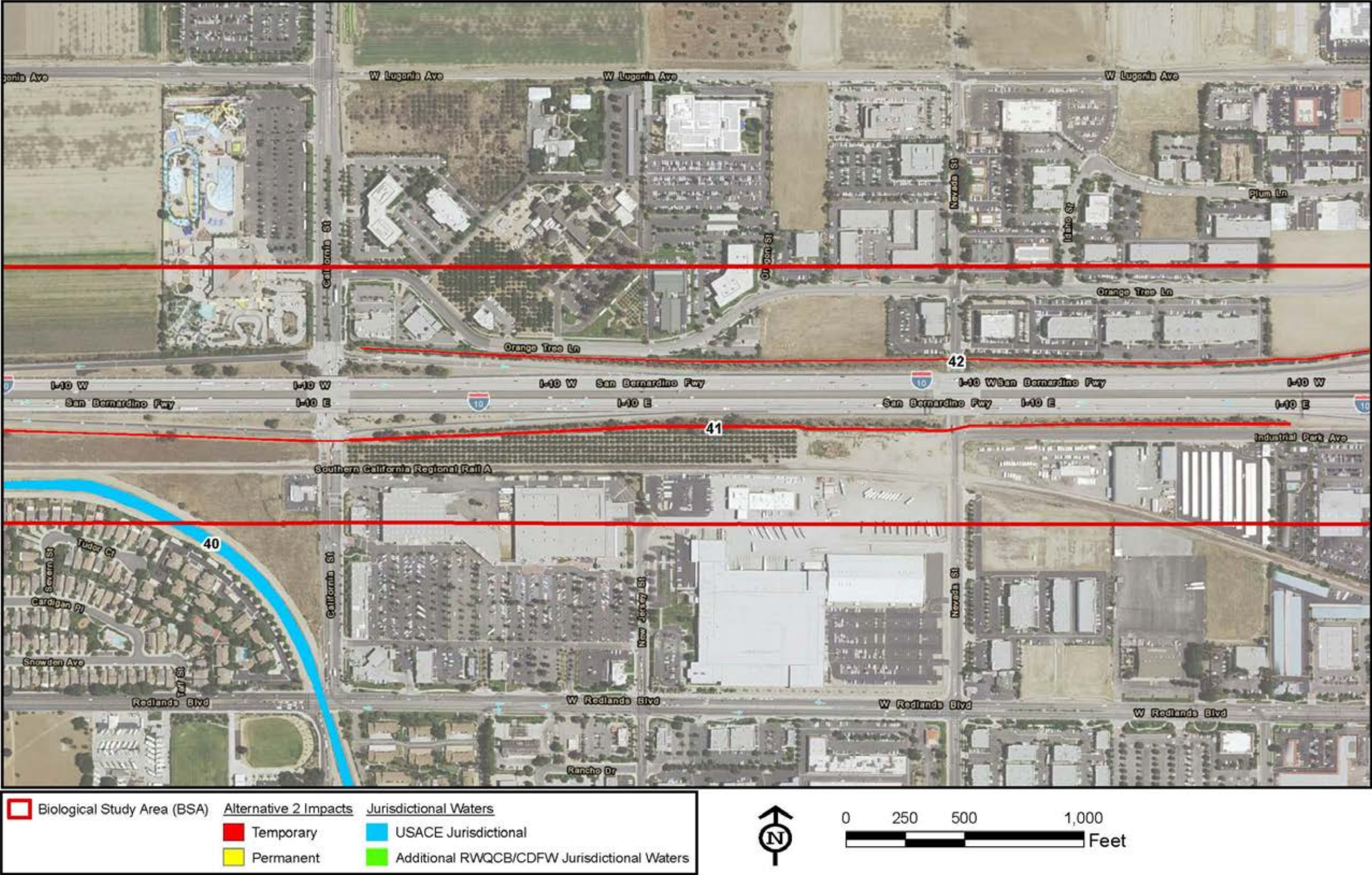
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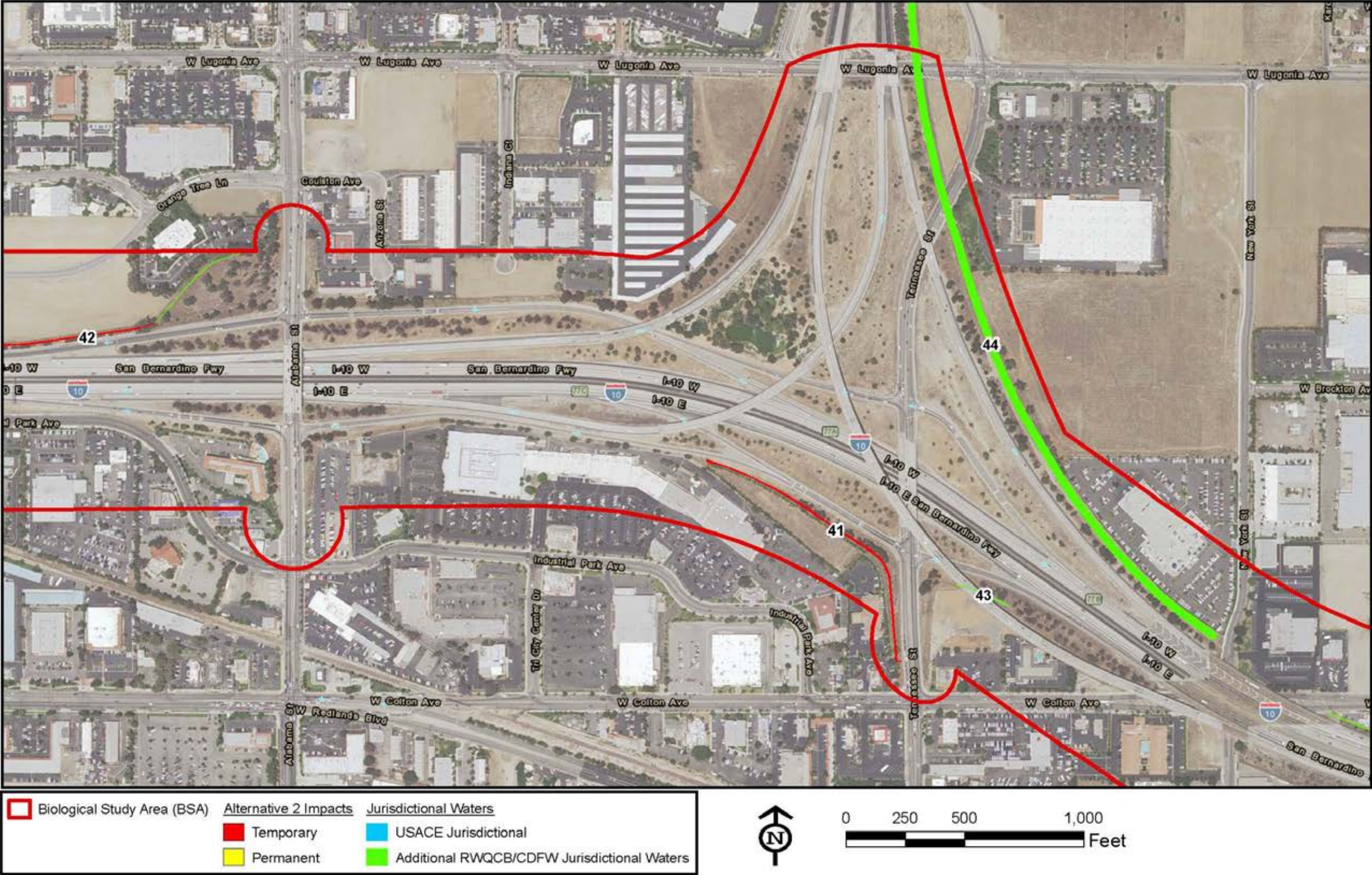
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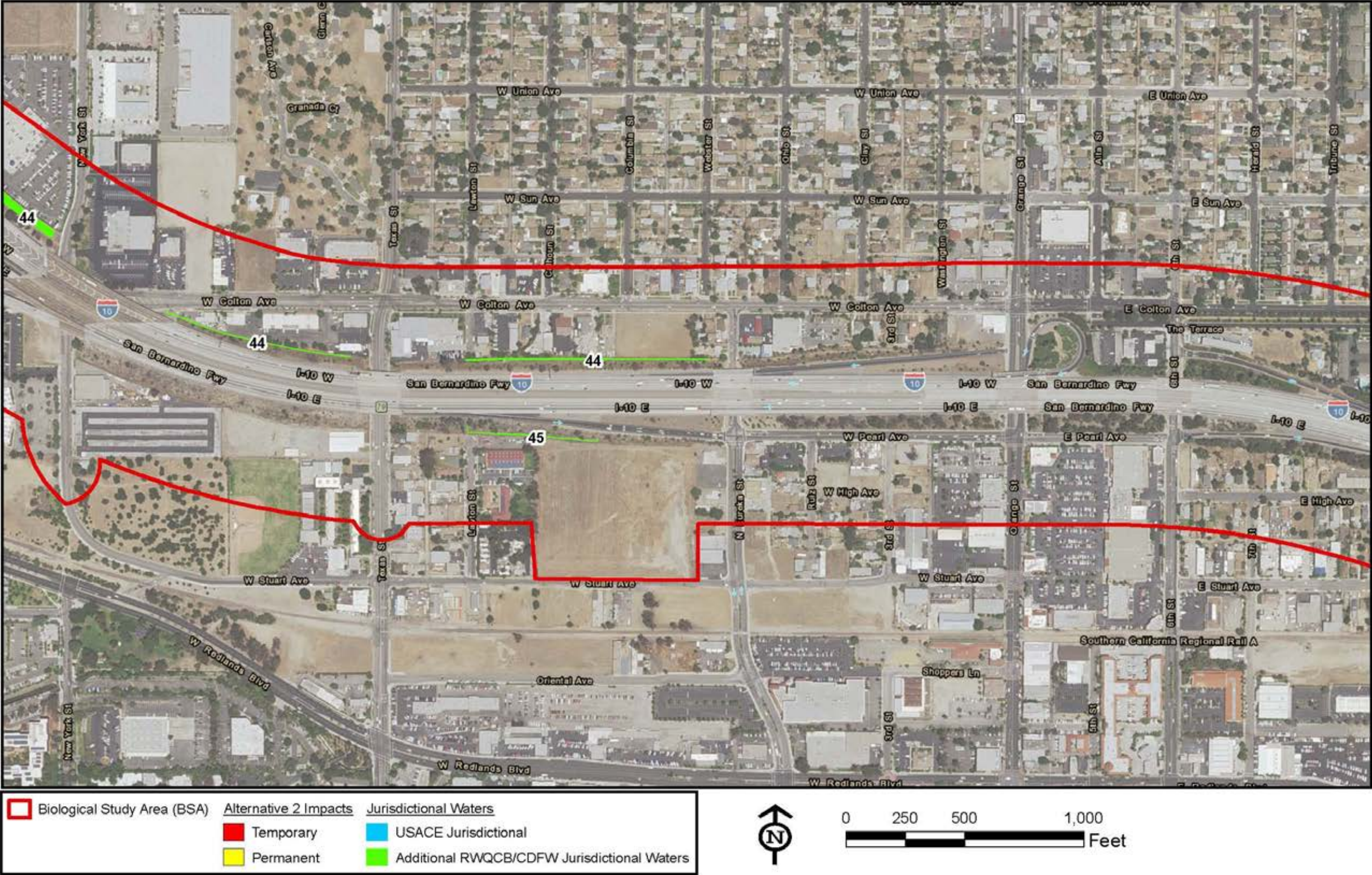
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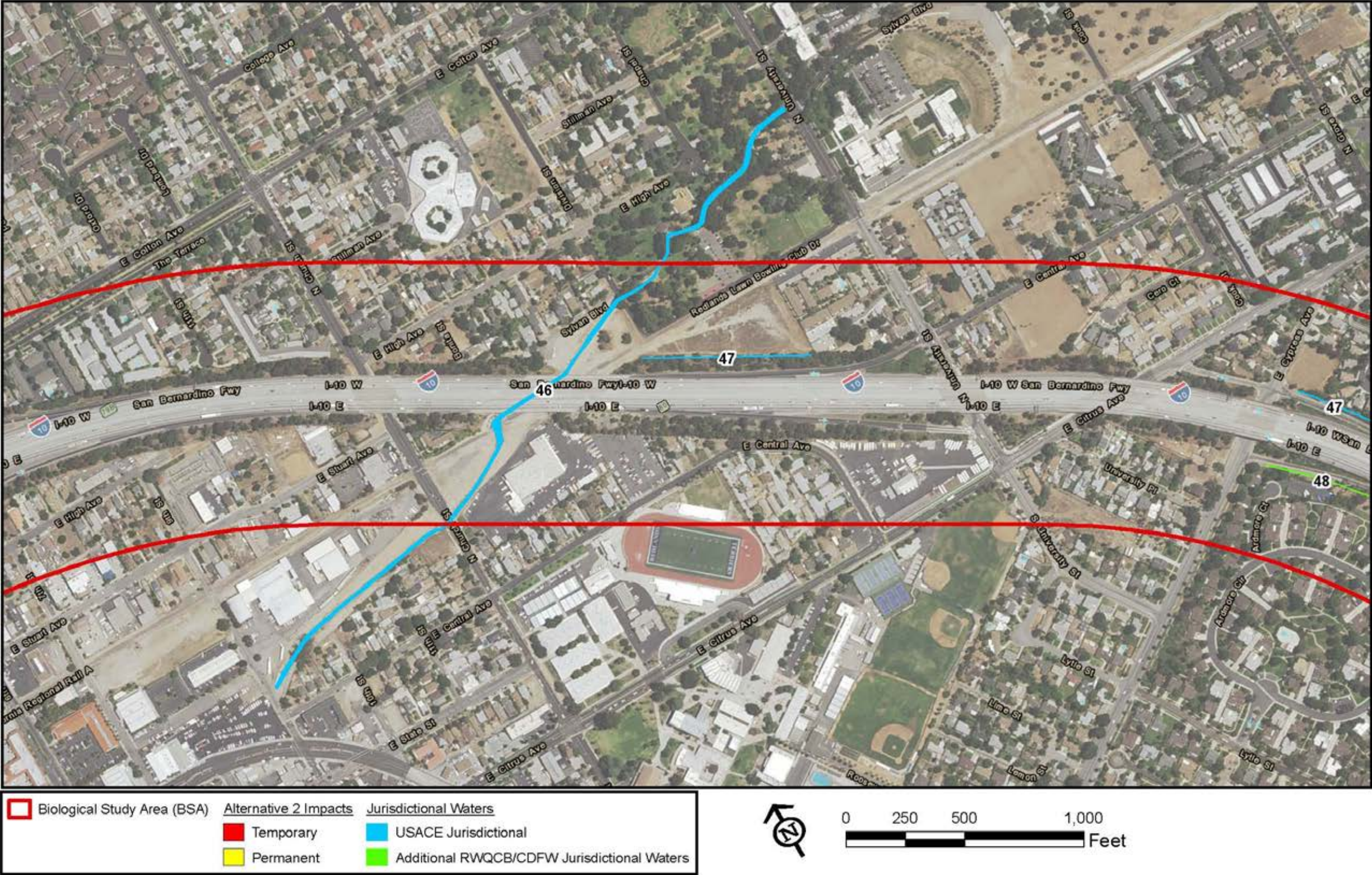
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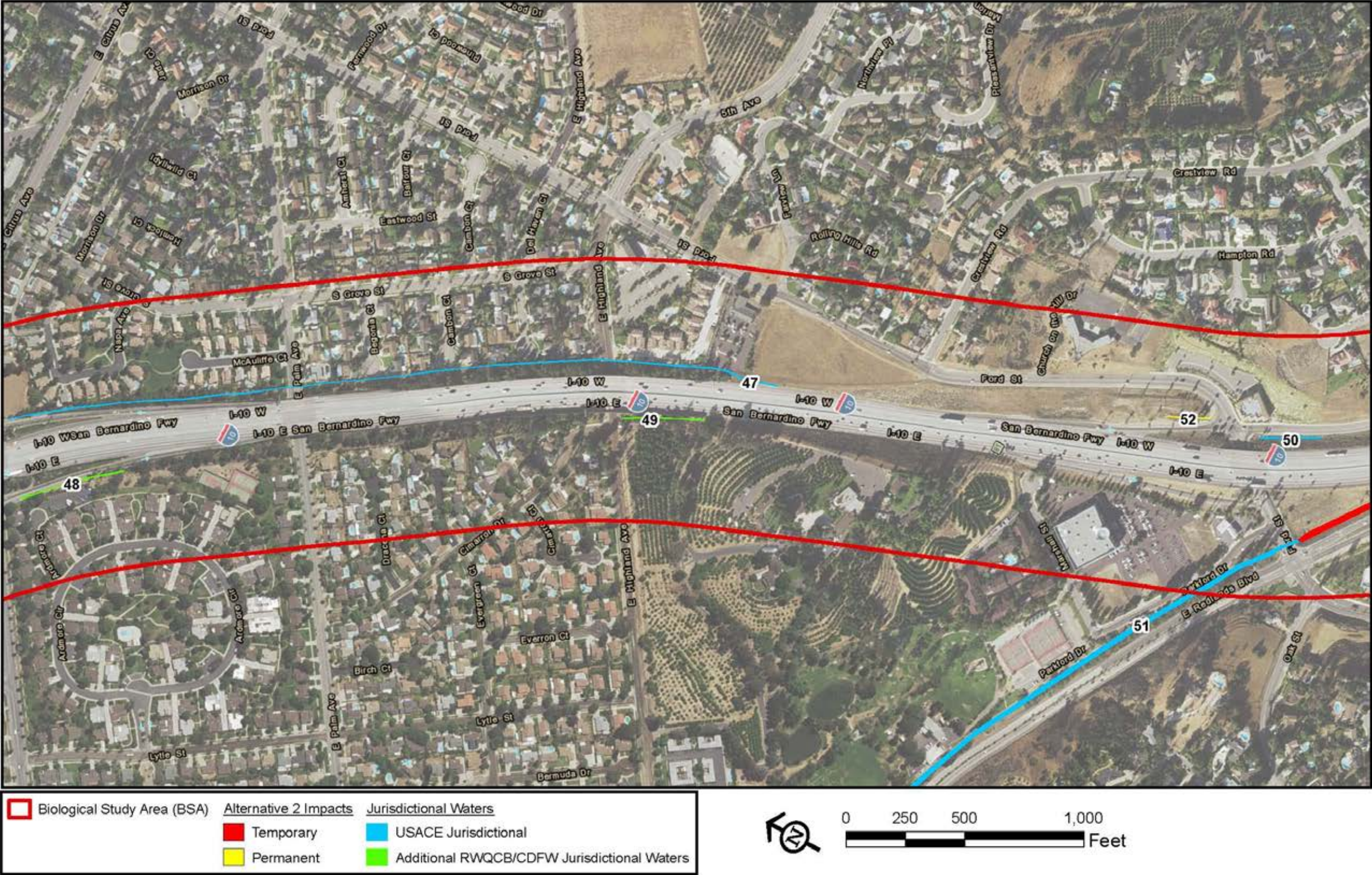
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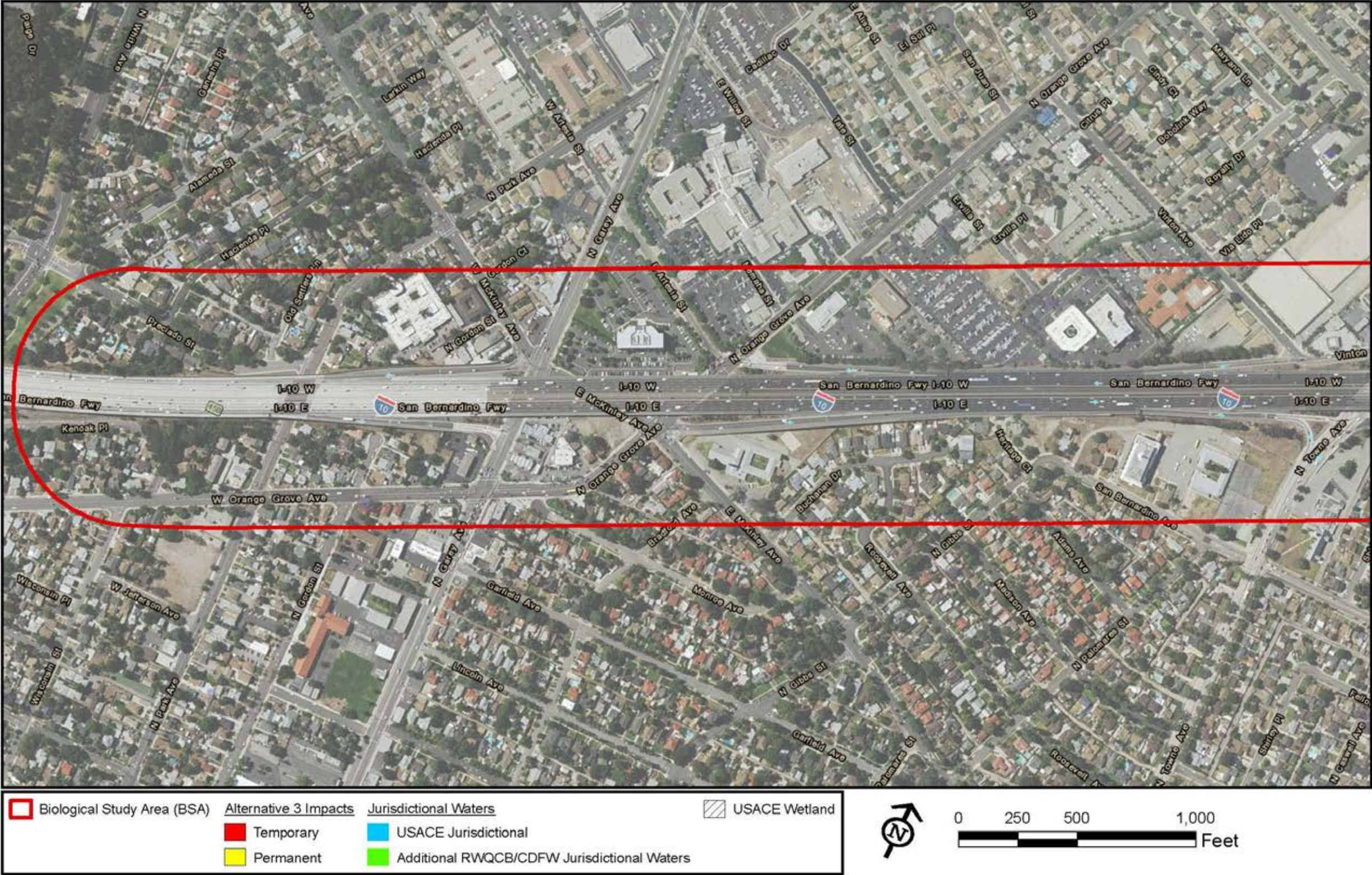


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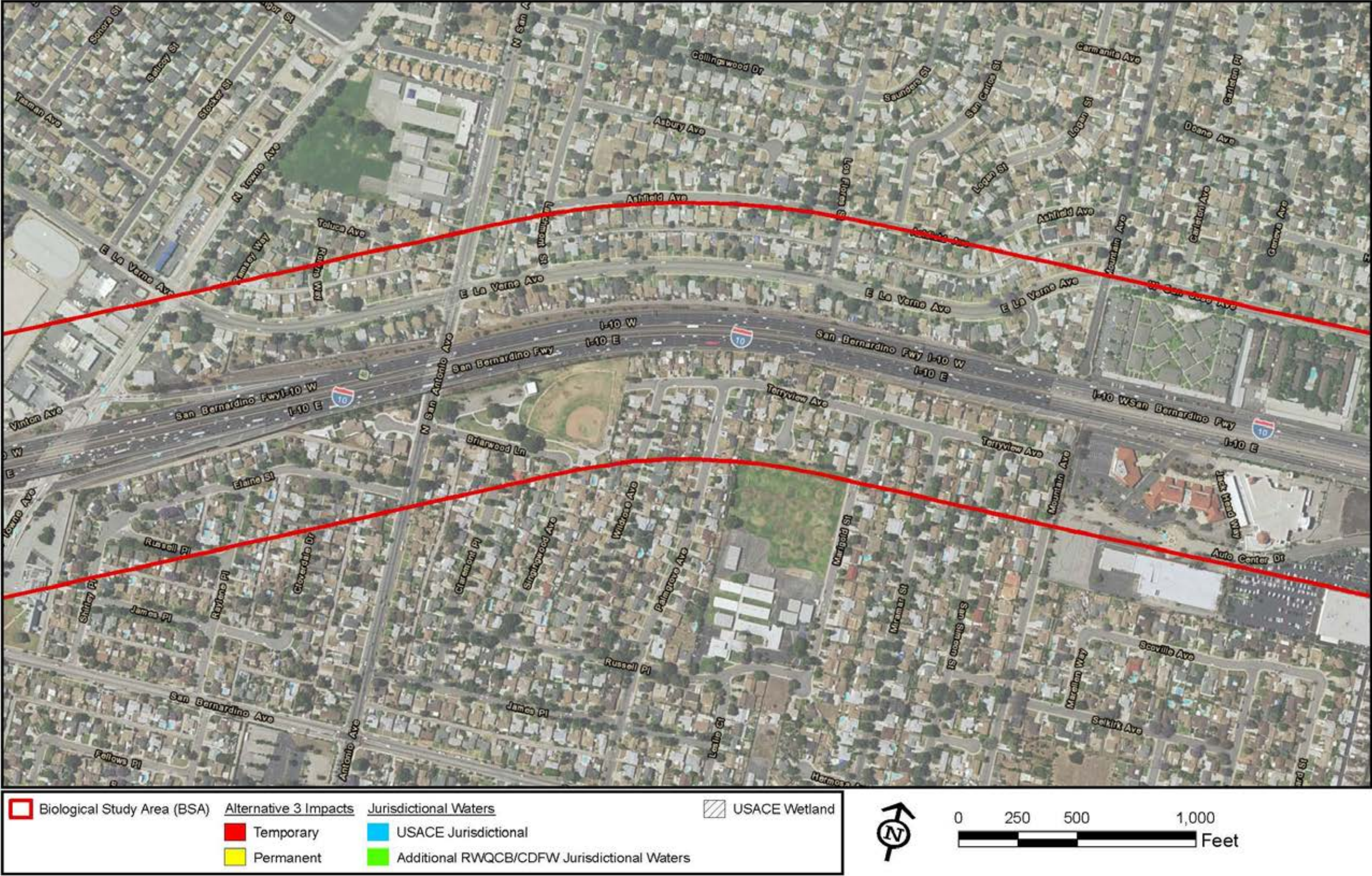
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Appendix G Jurisdictional Waters Impact Mapping for Alternative 3

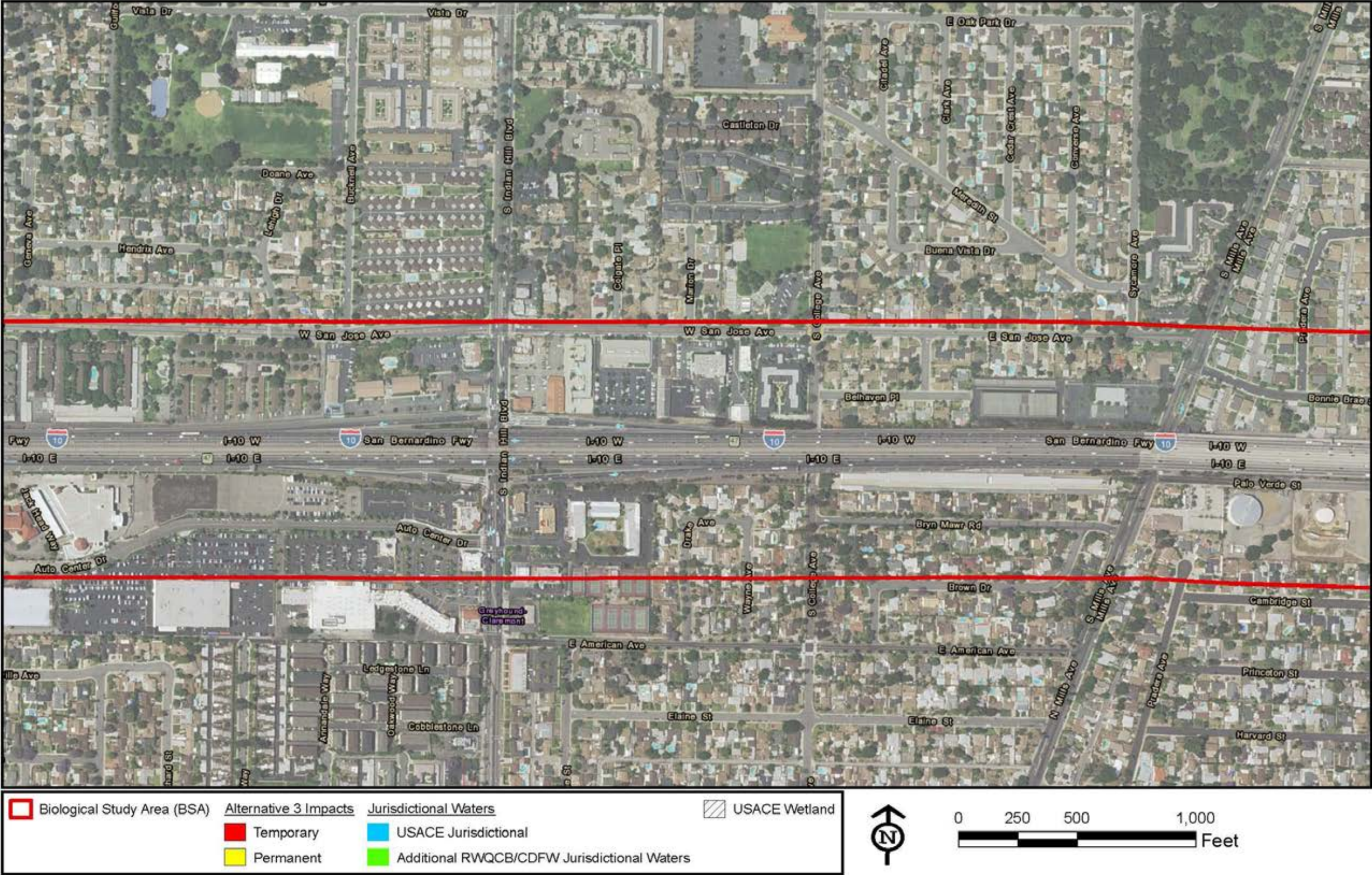
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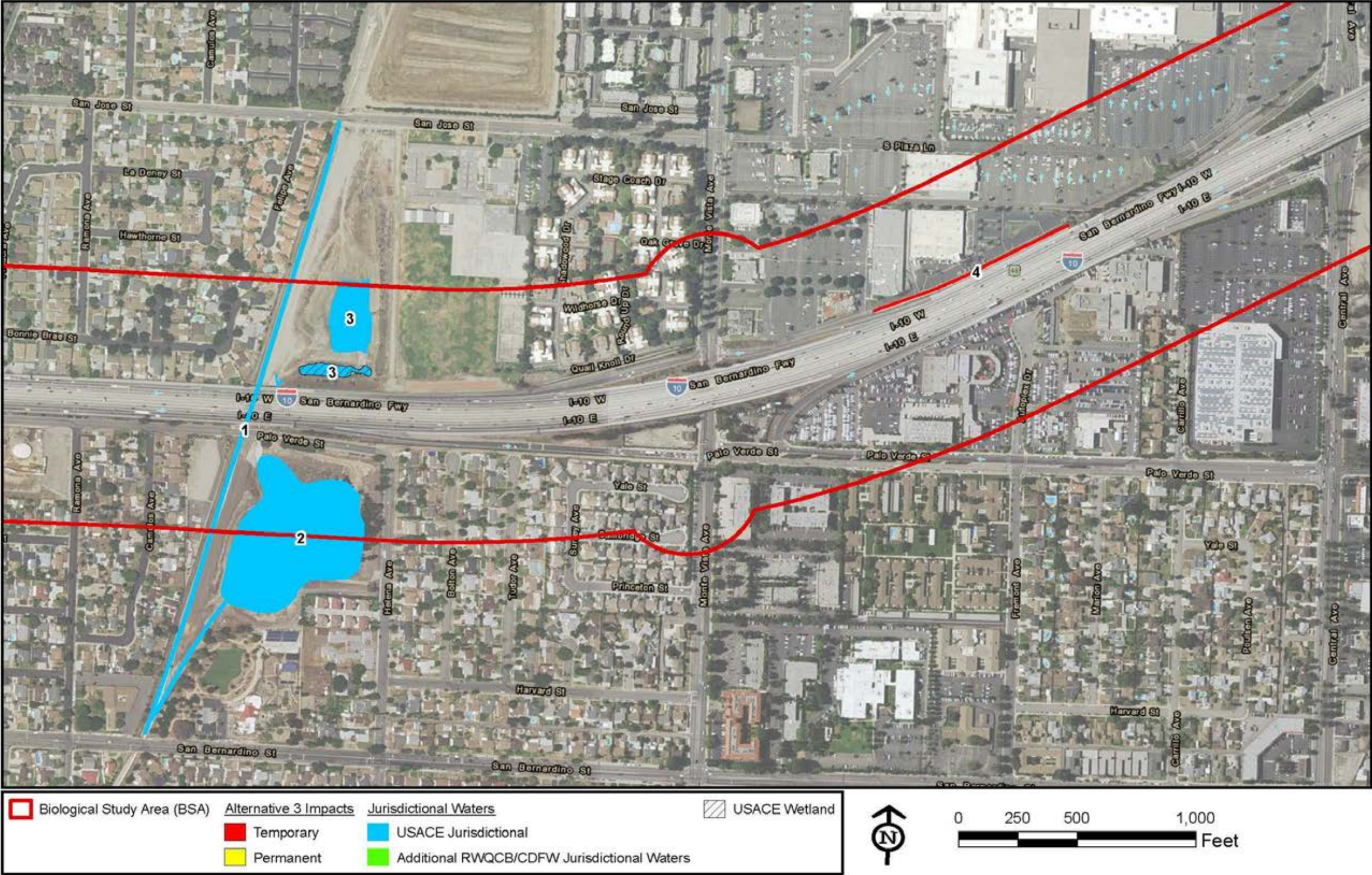
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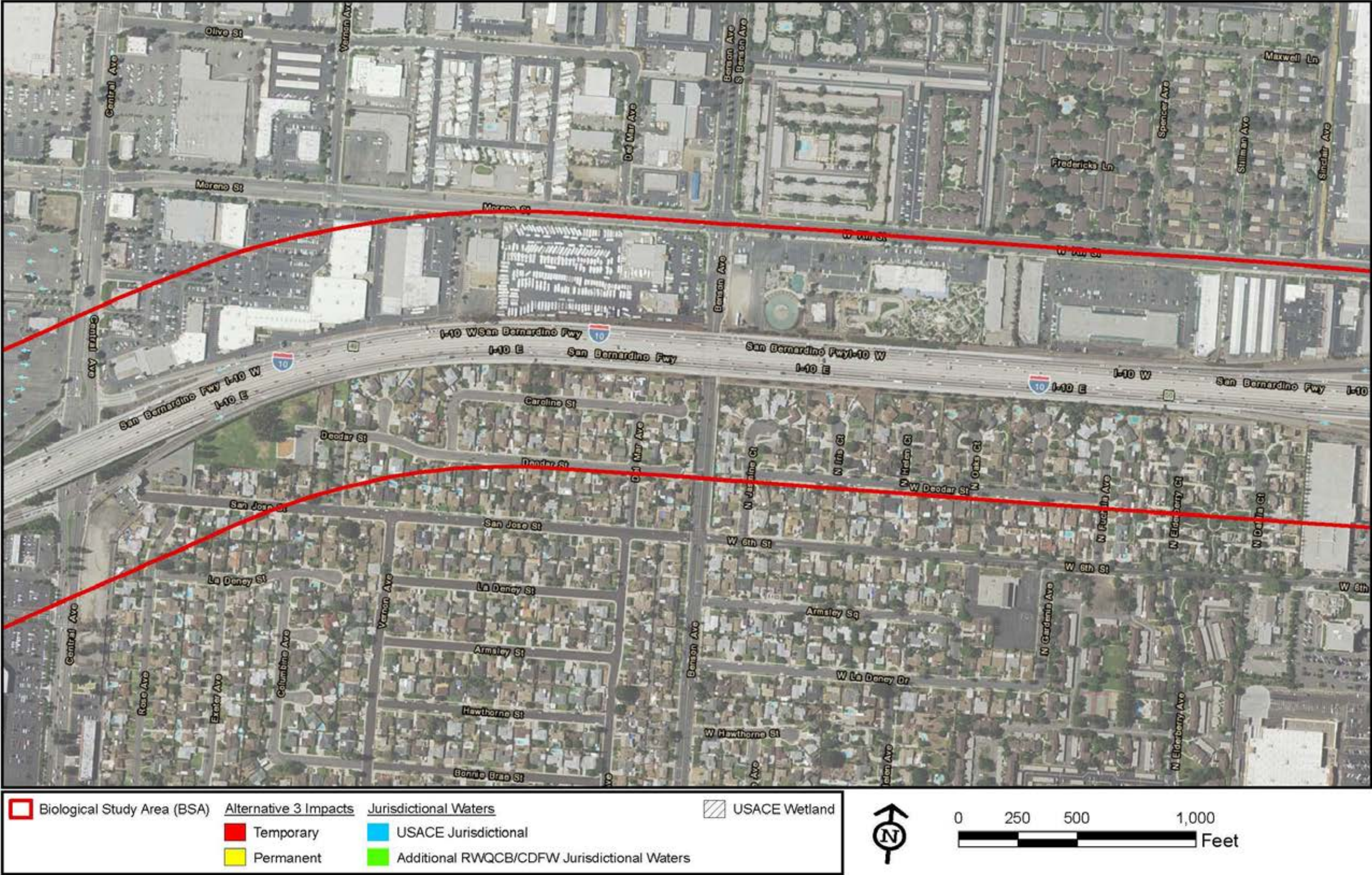
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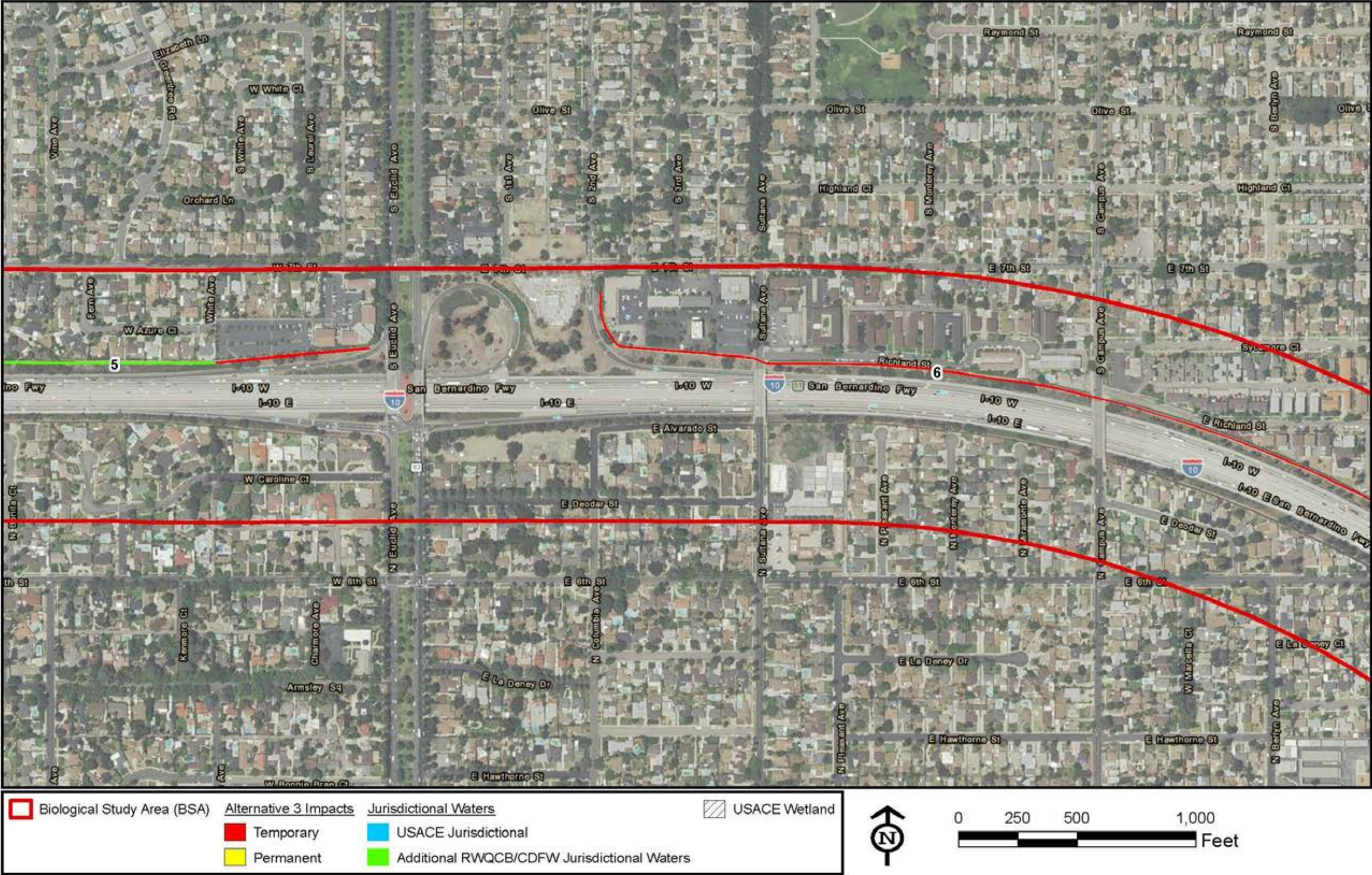


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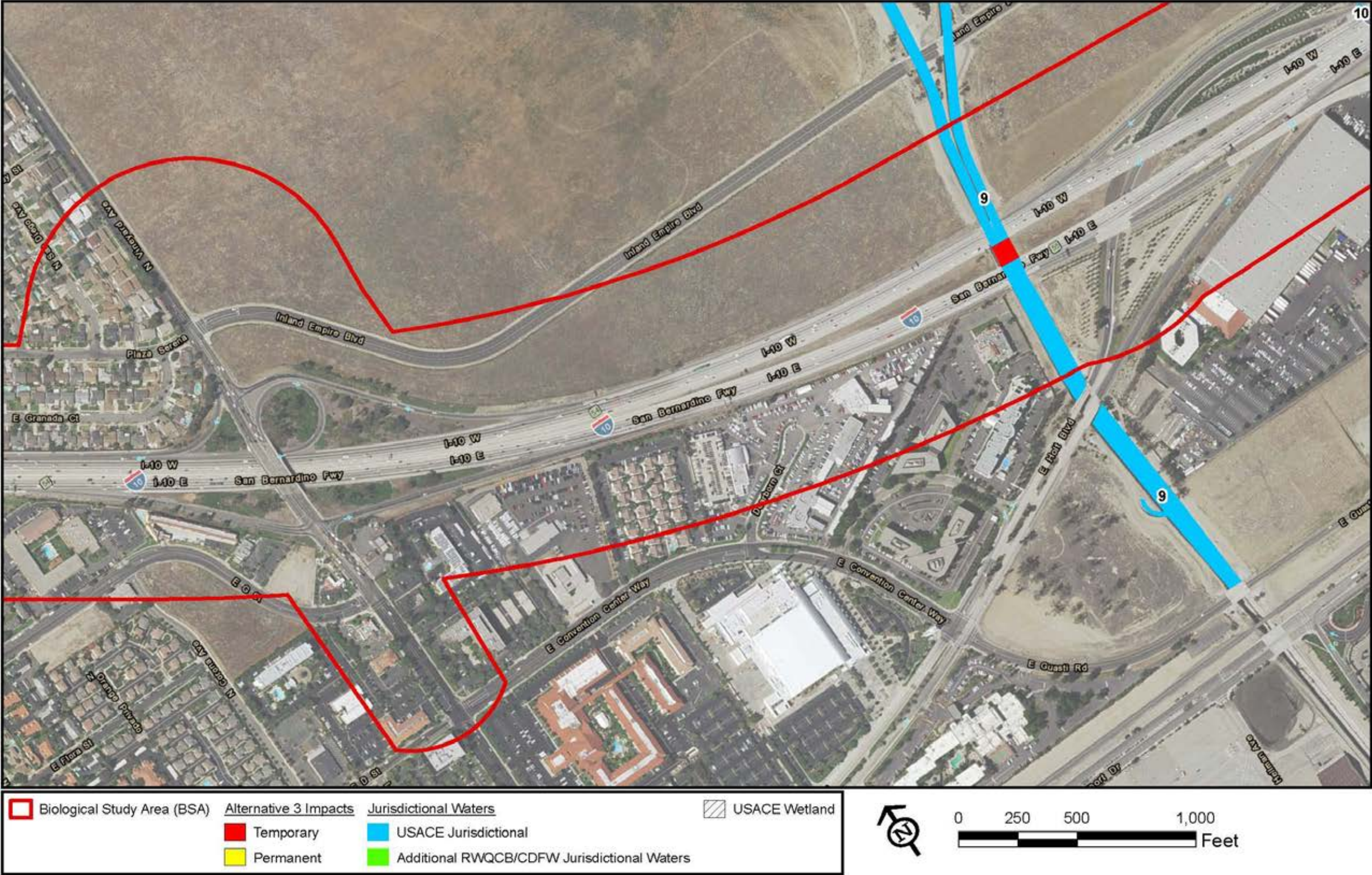
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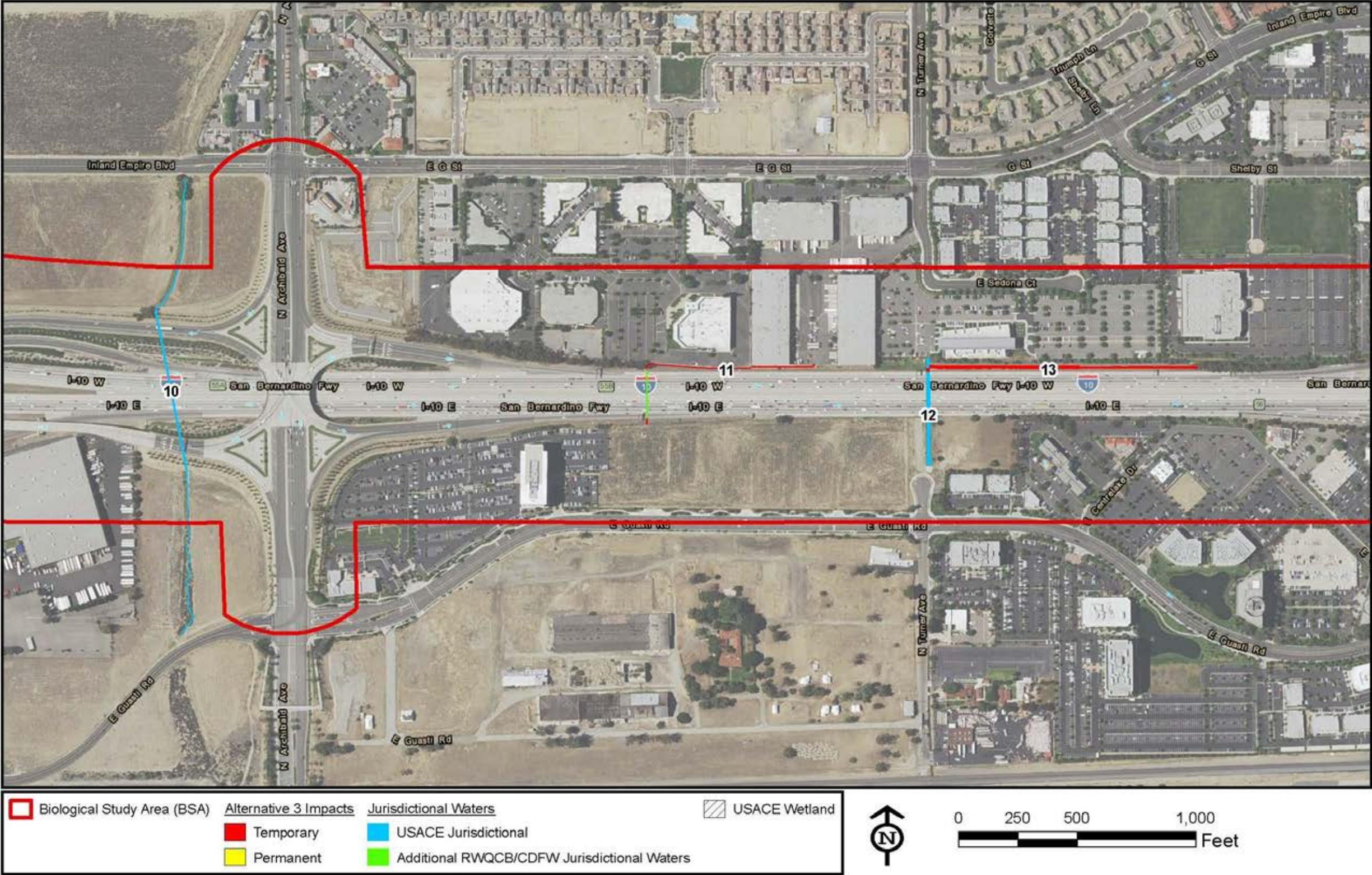
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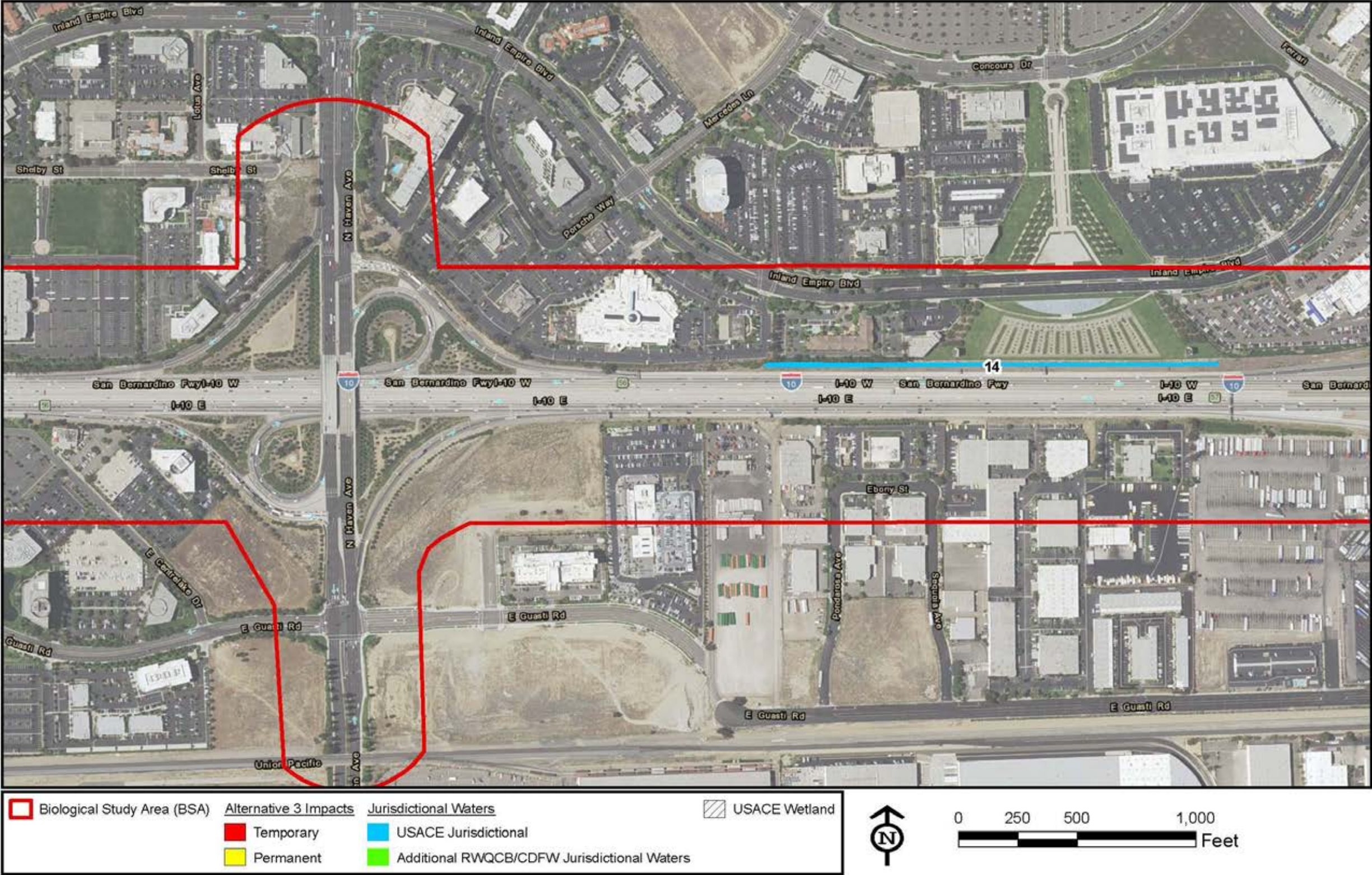
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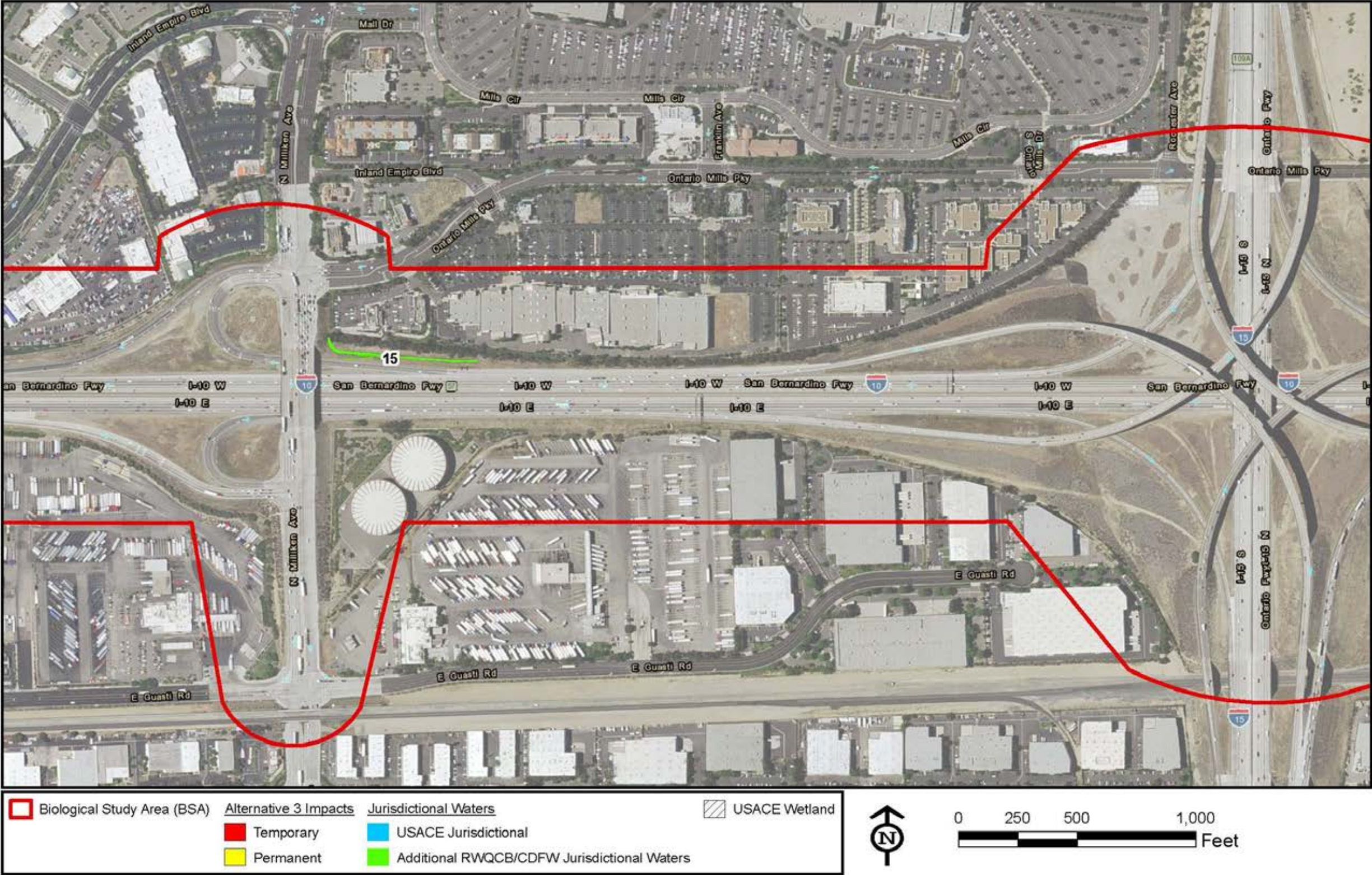
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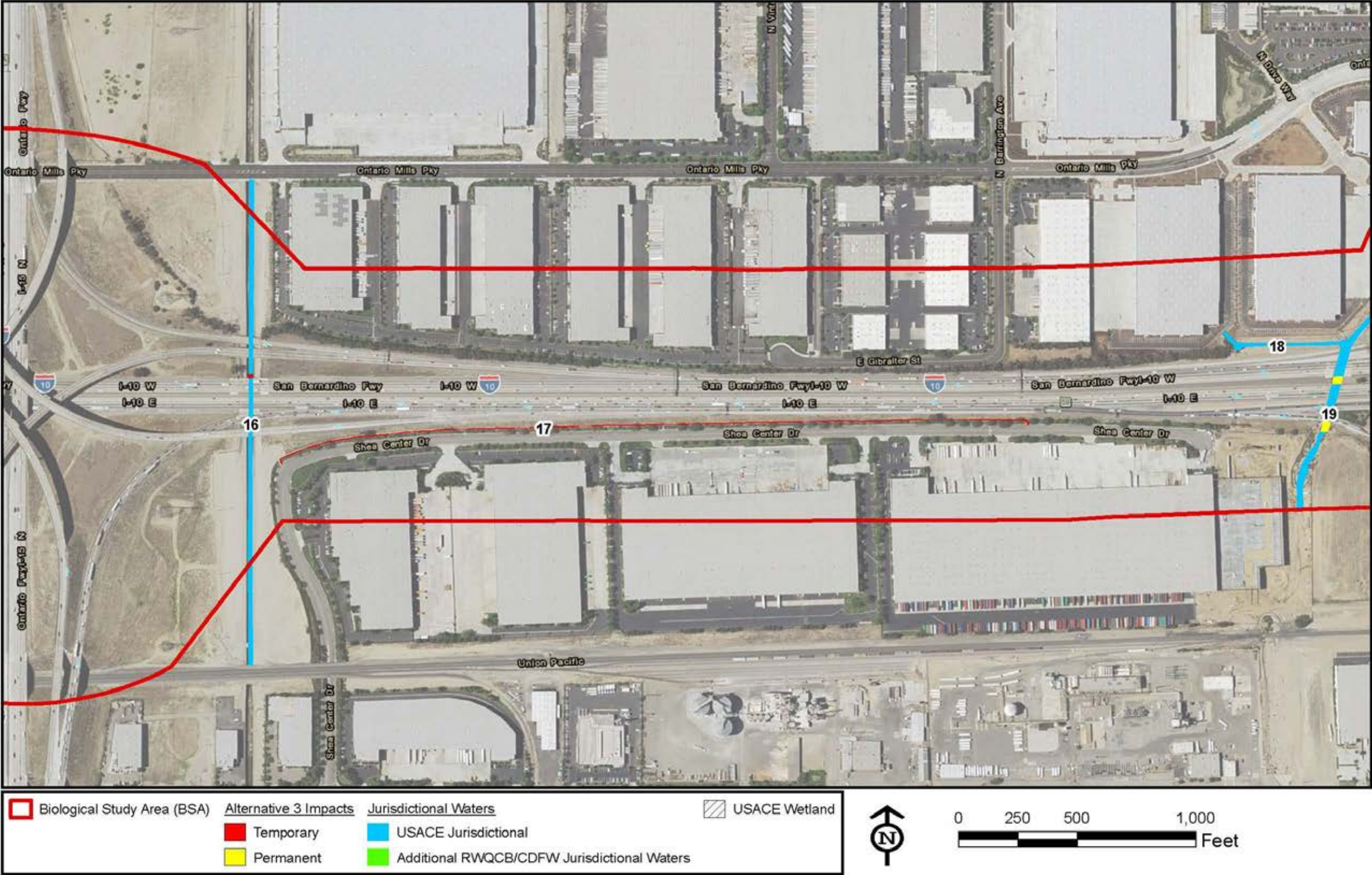
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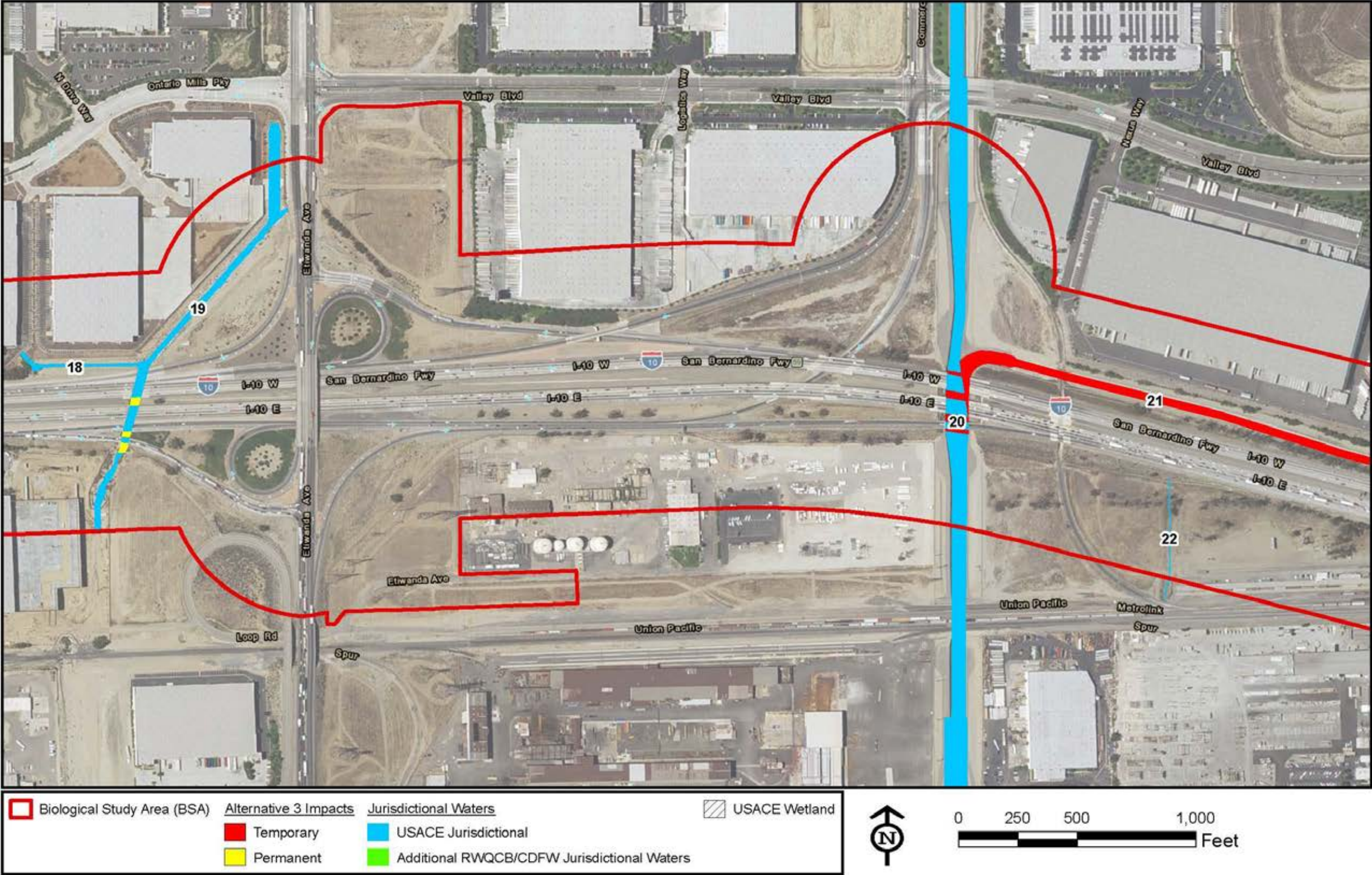
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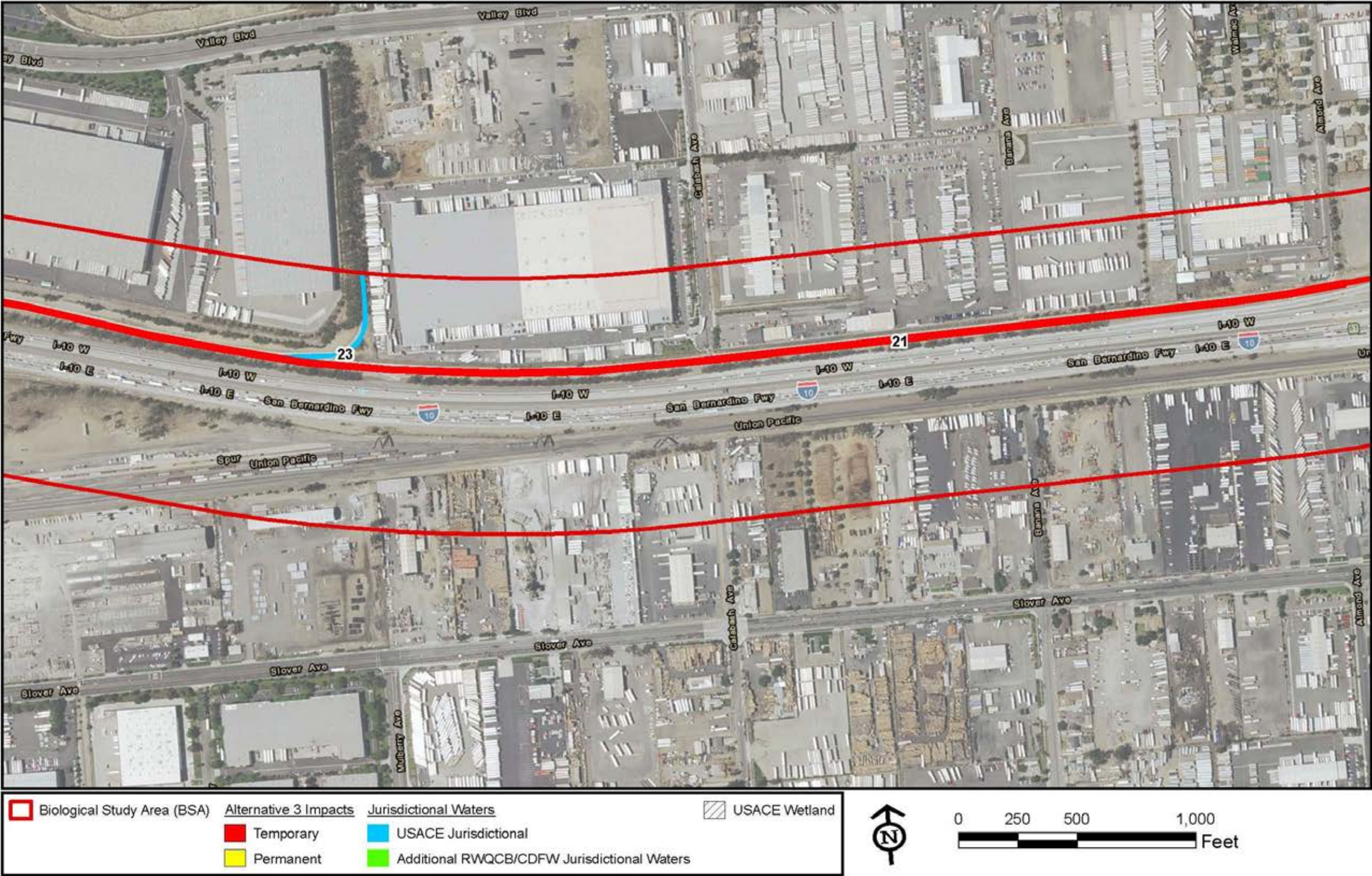
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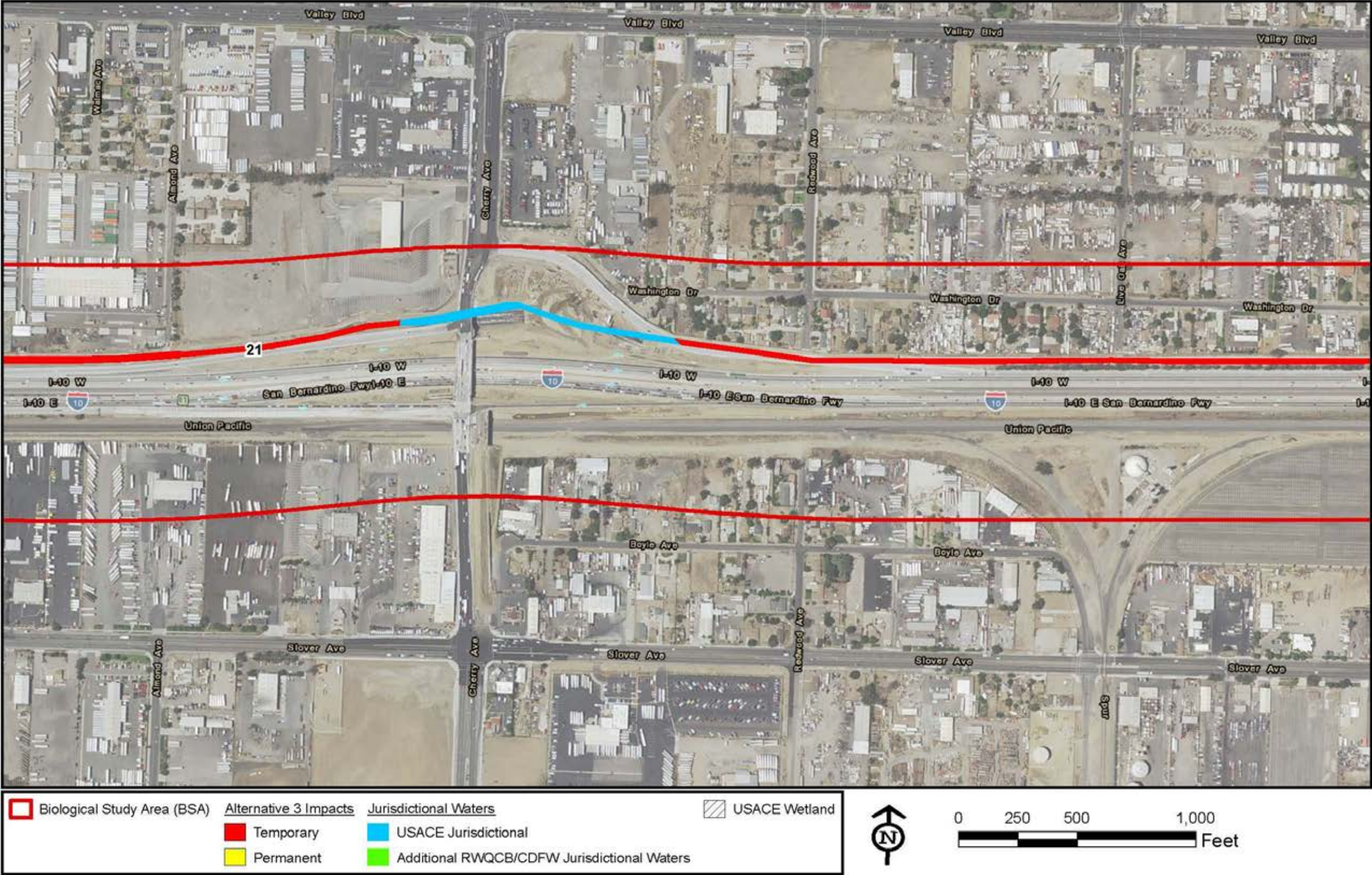
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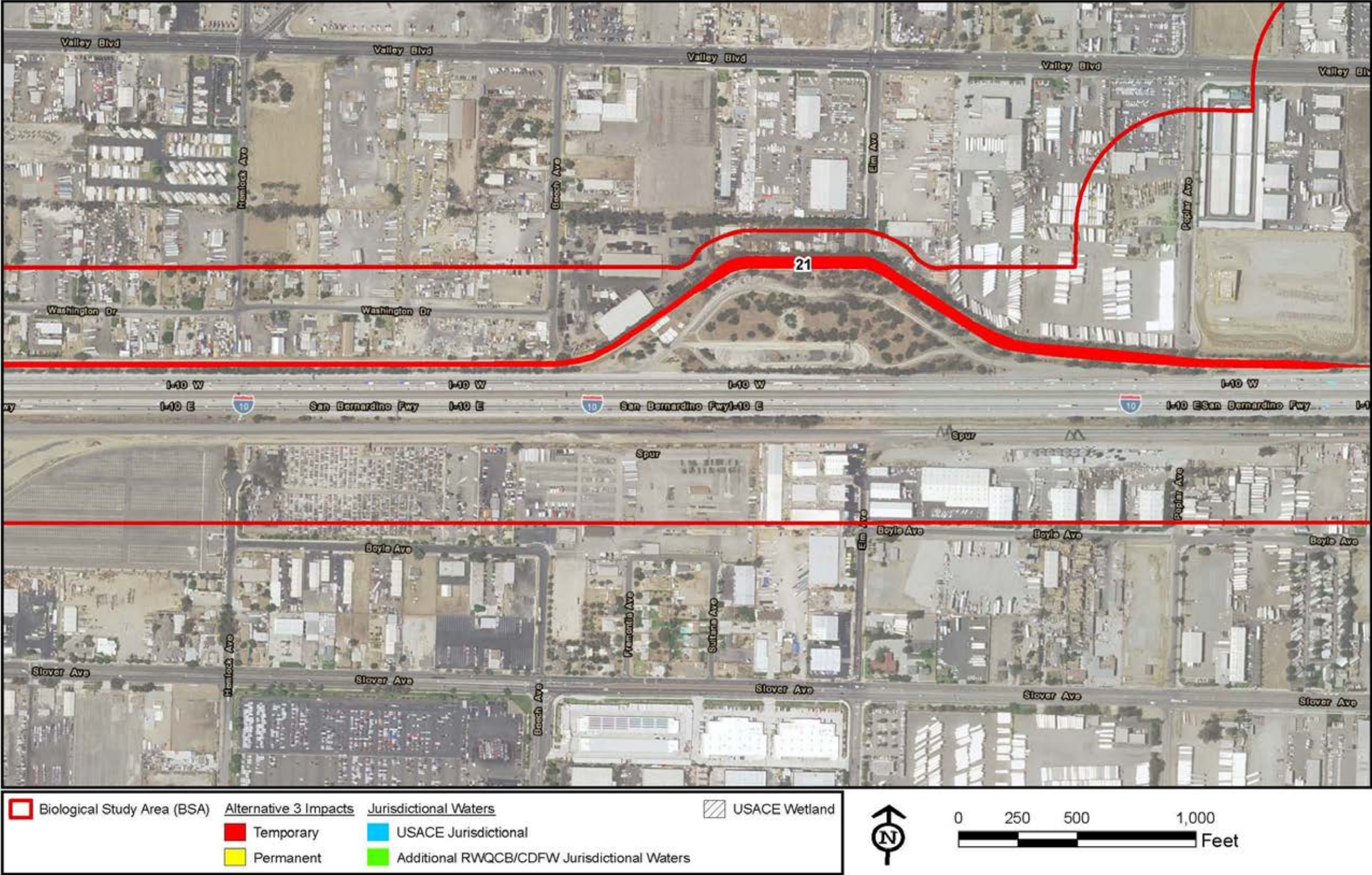
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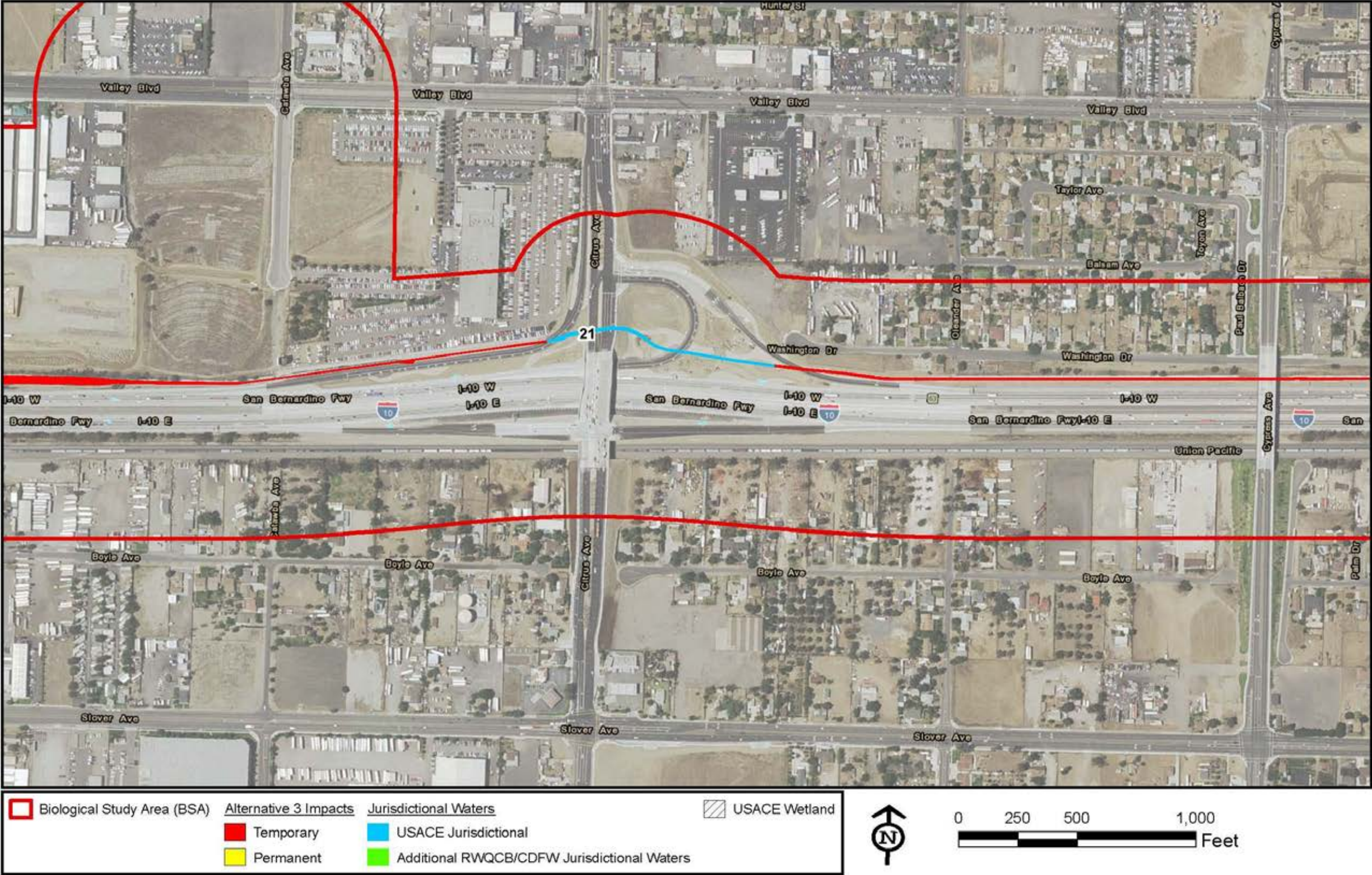
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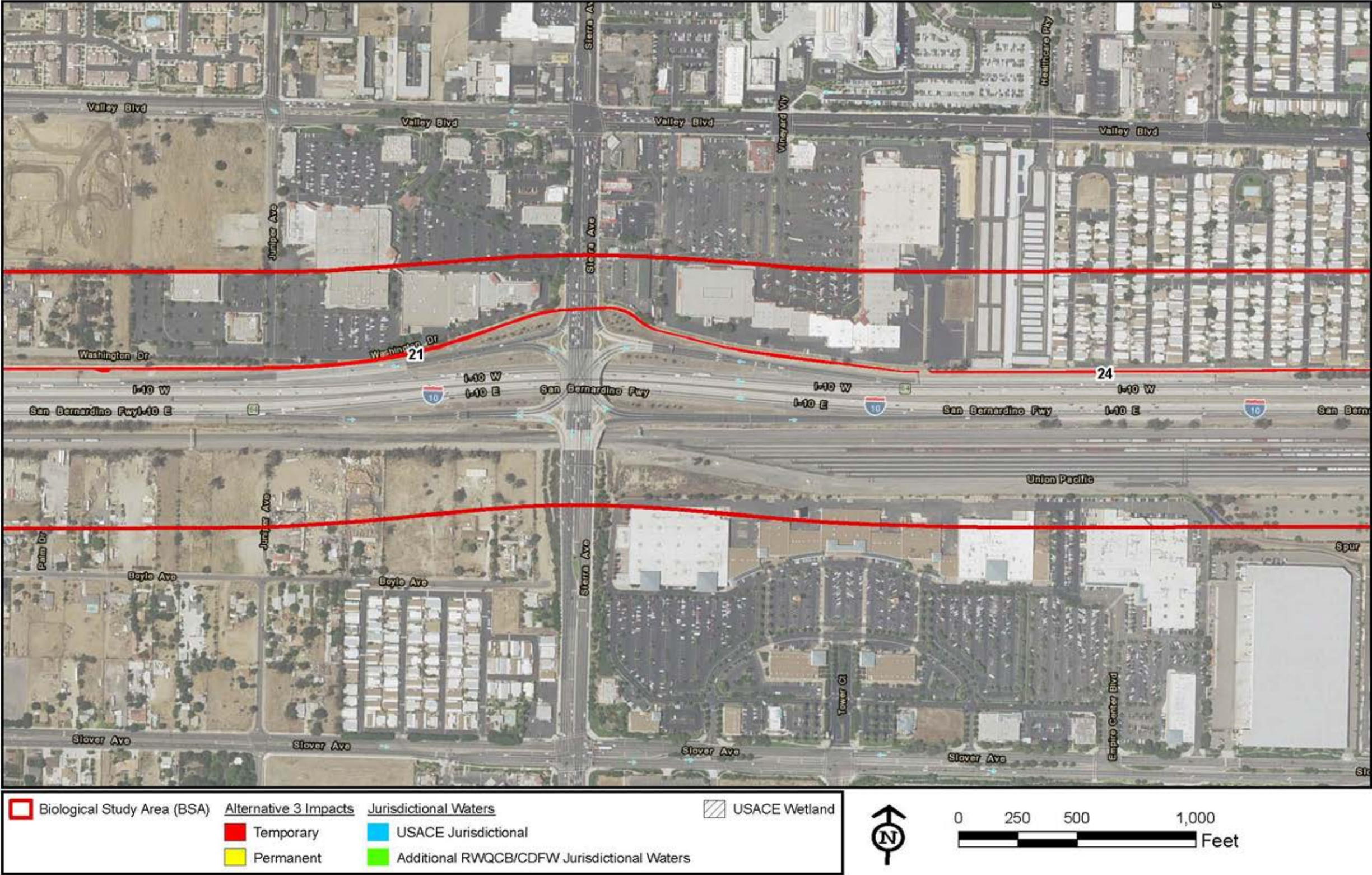
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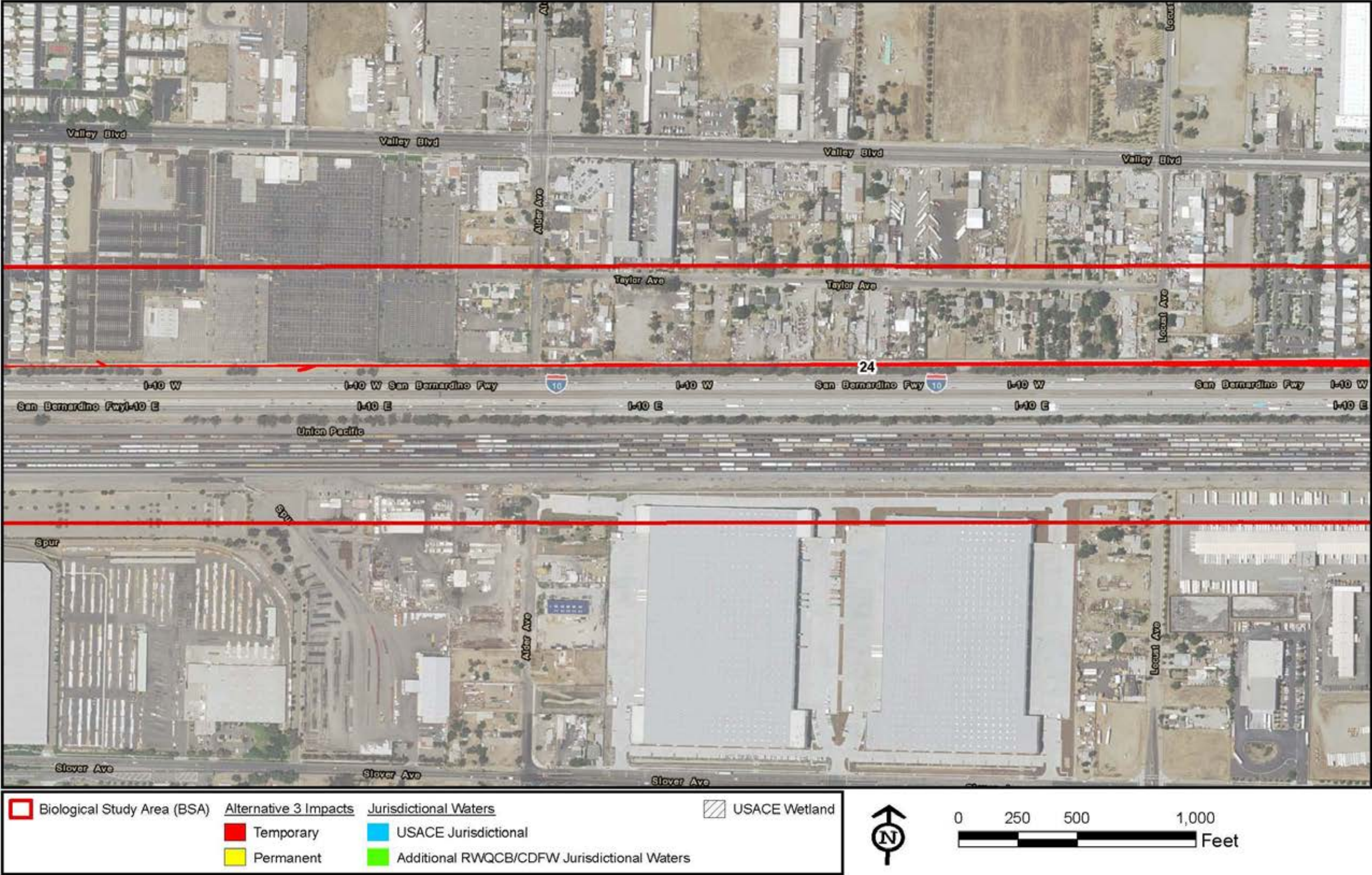
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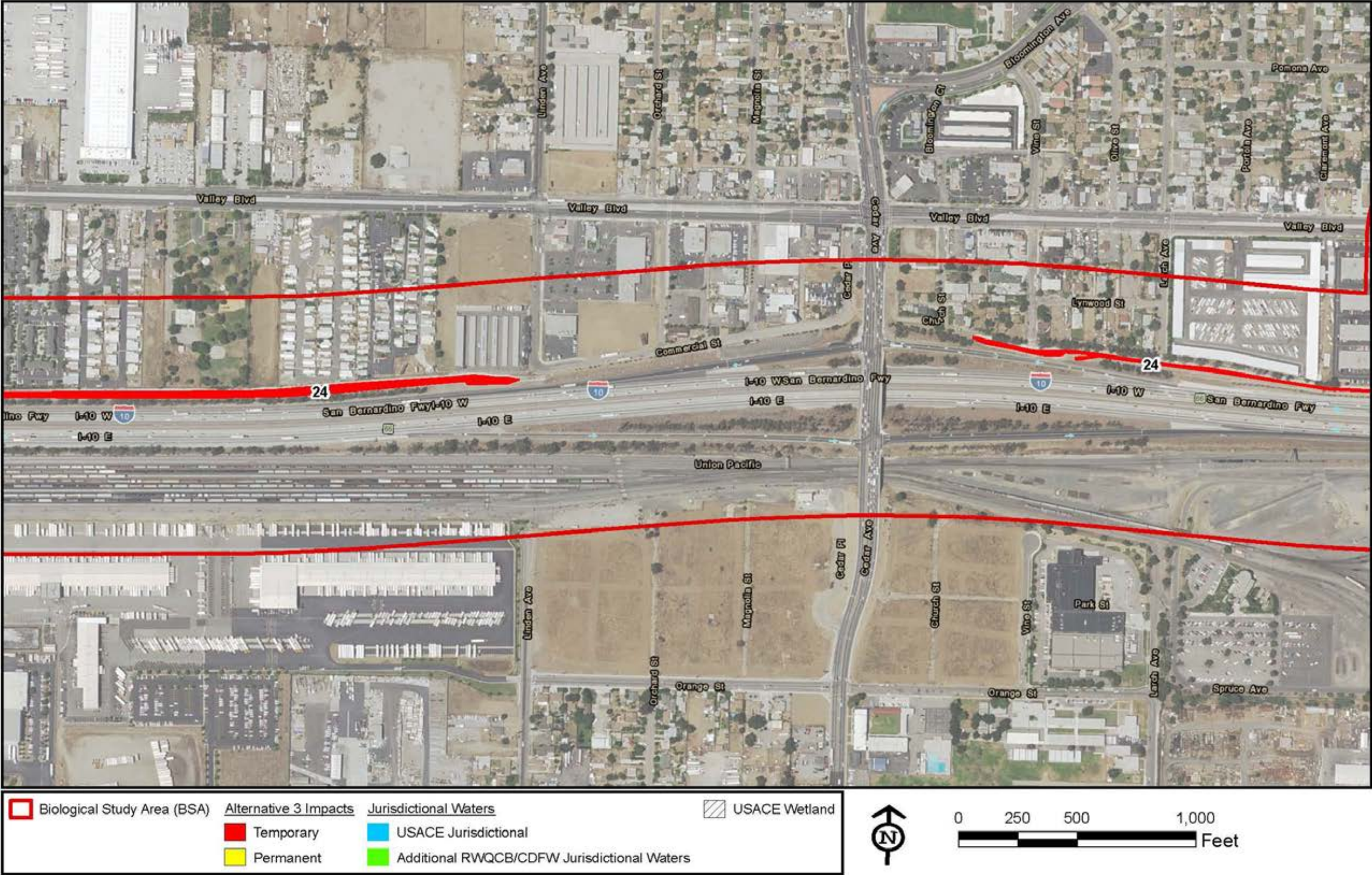
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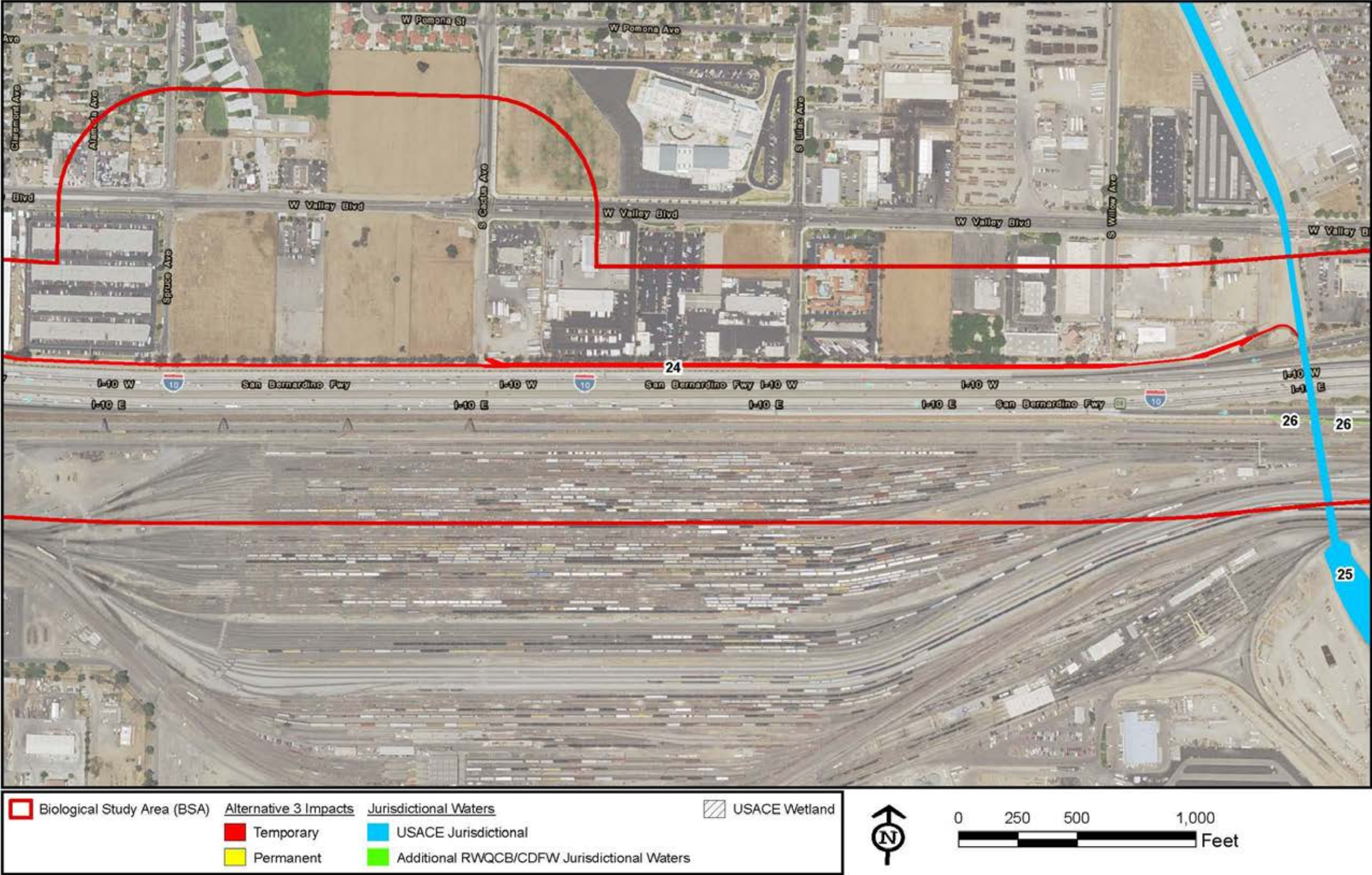
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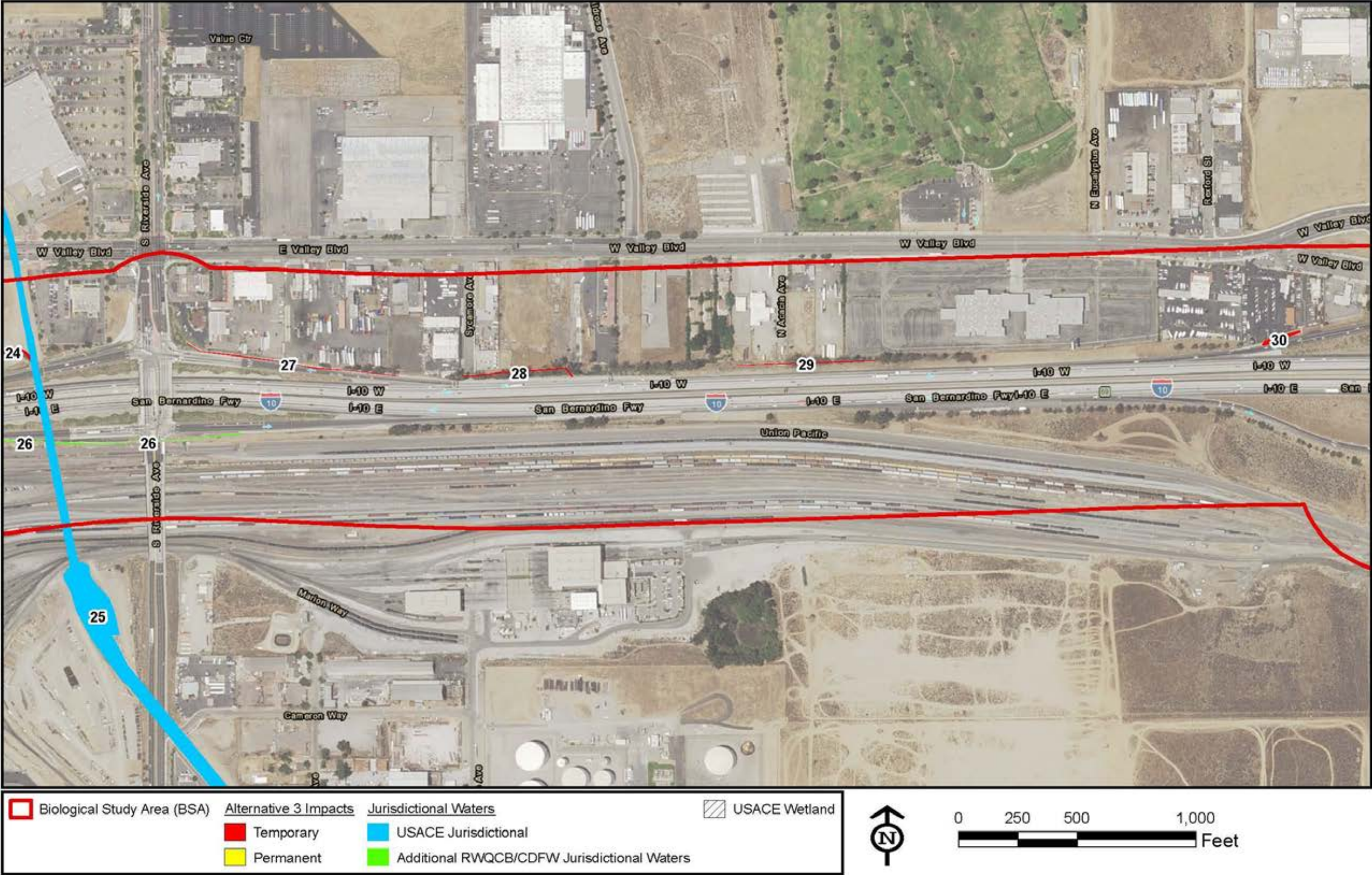
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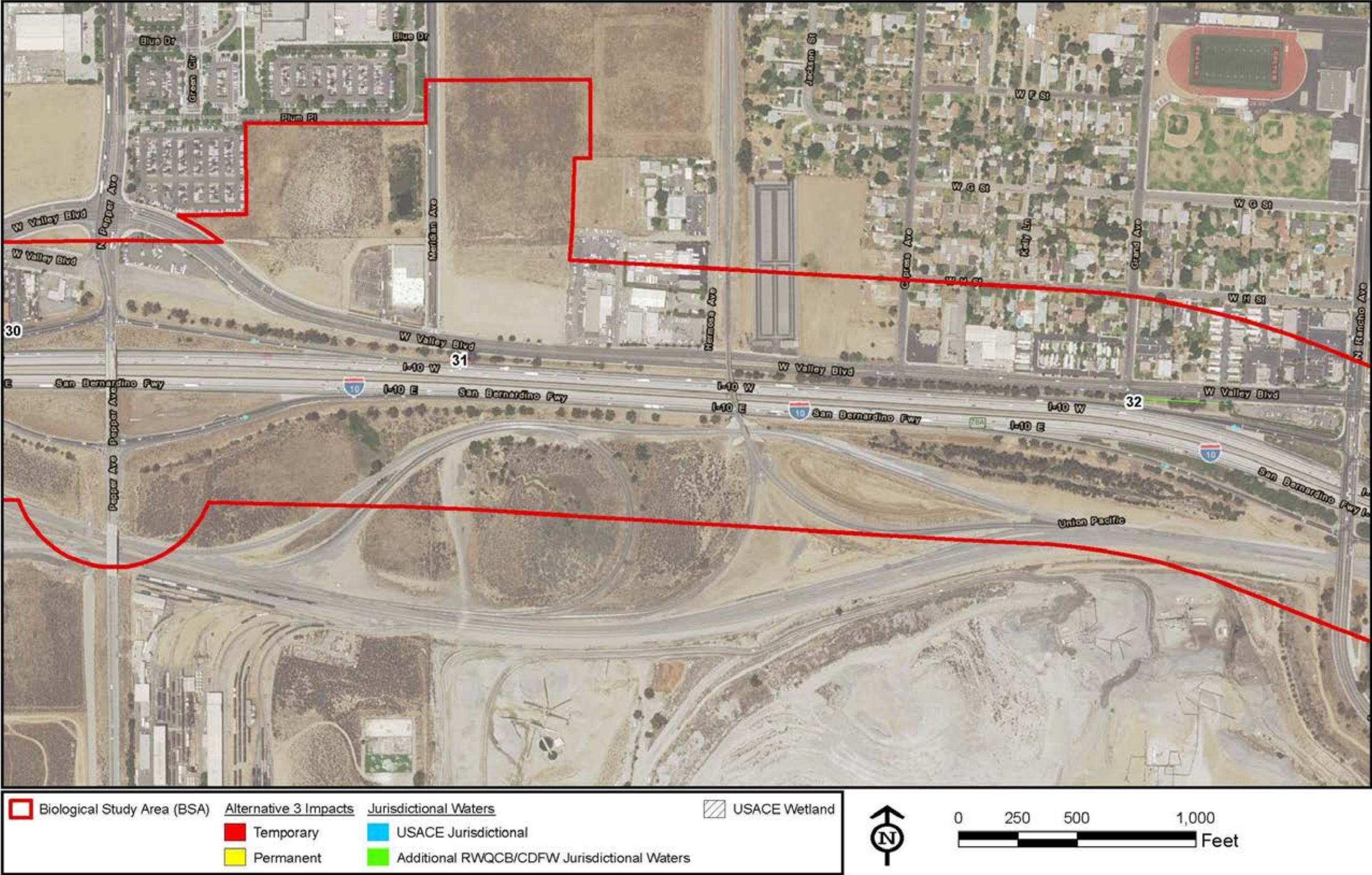
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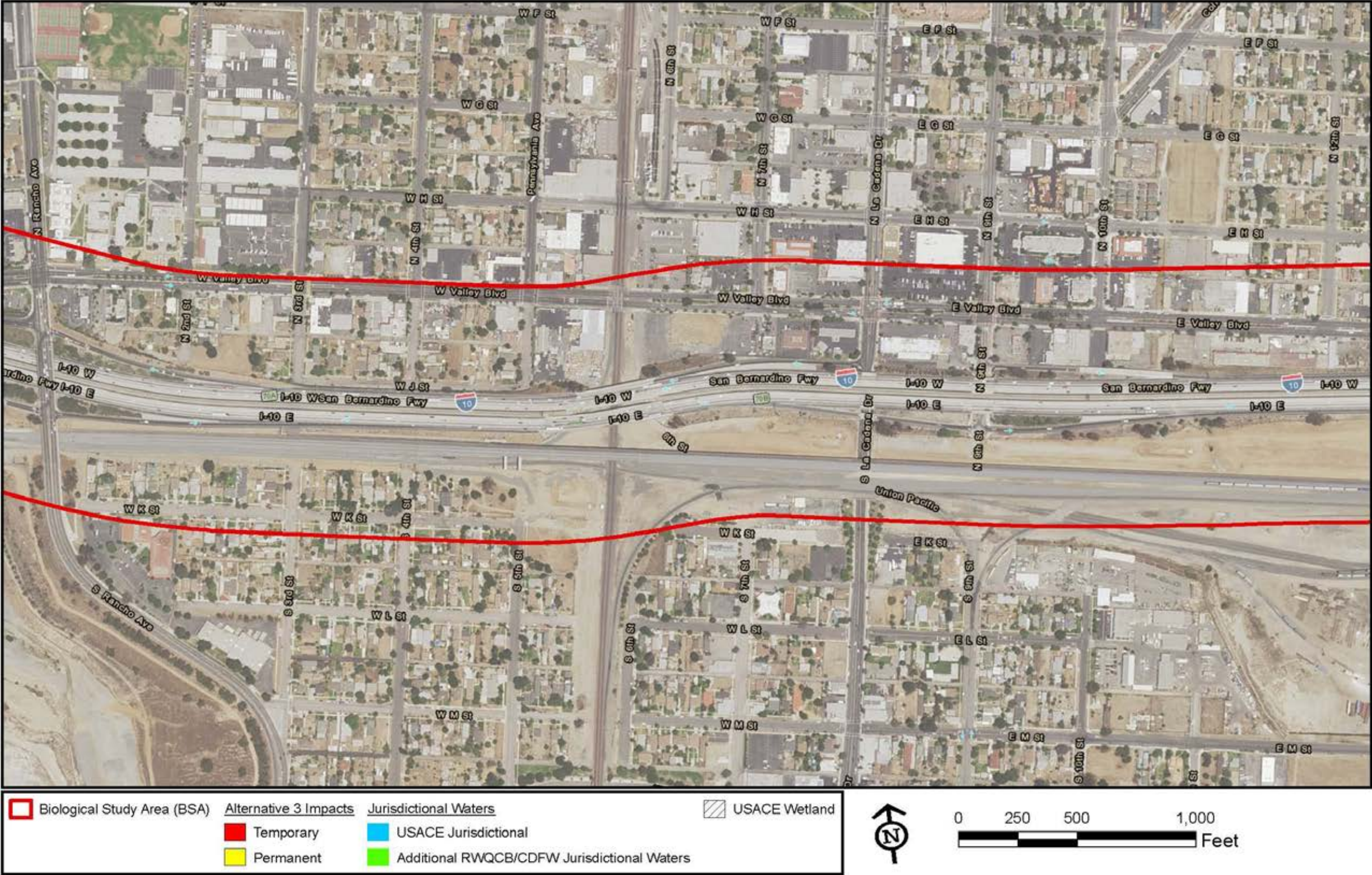
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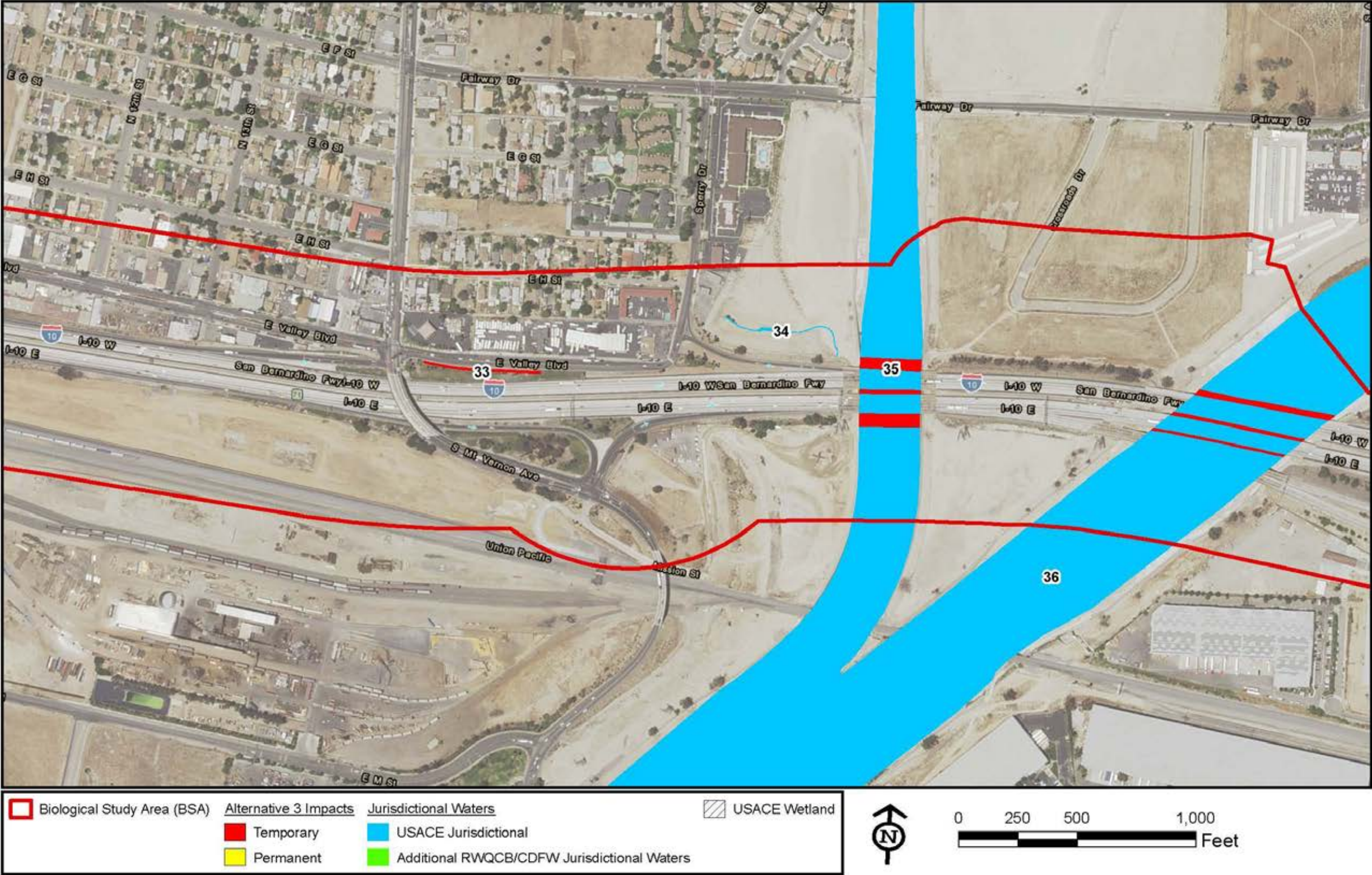
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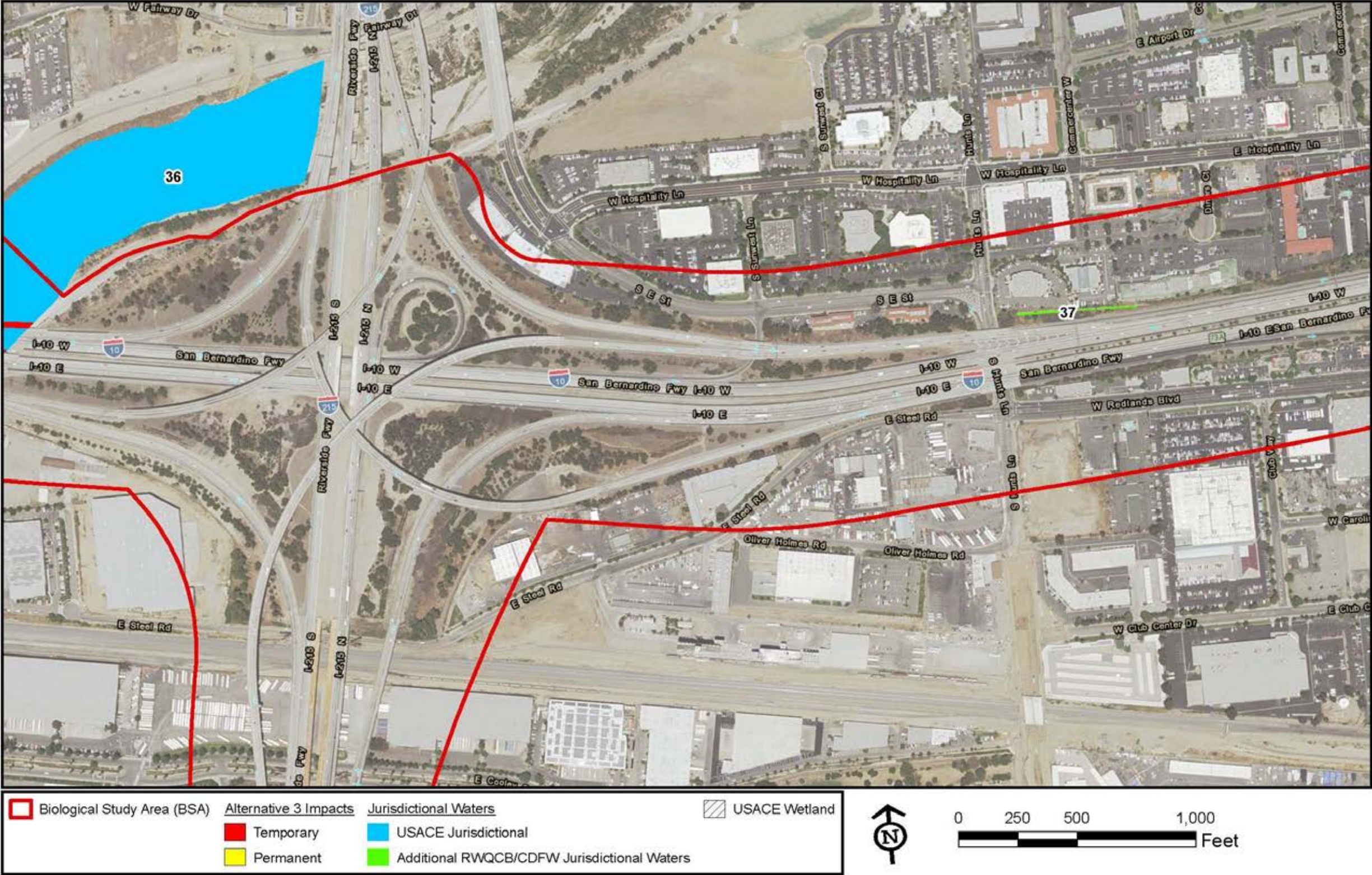
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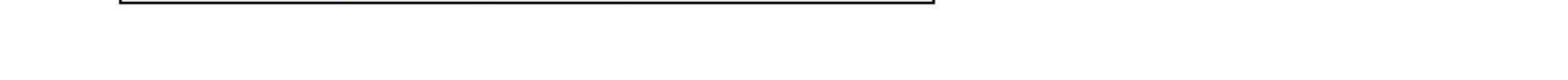
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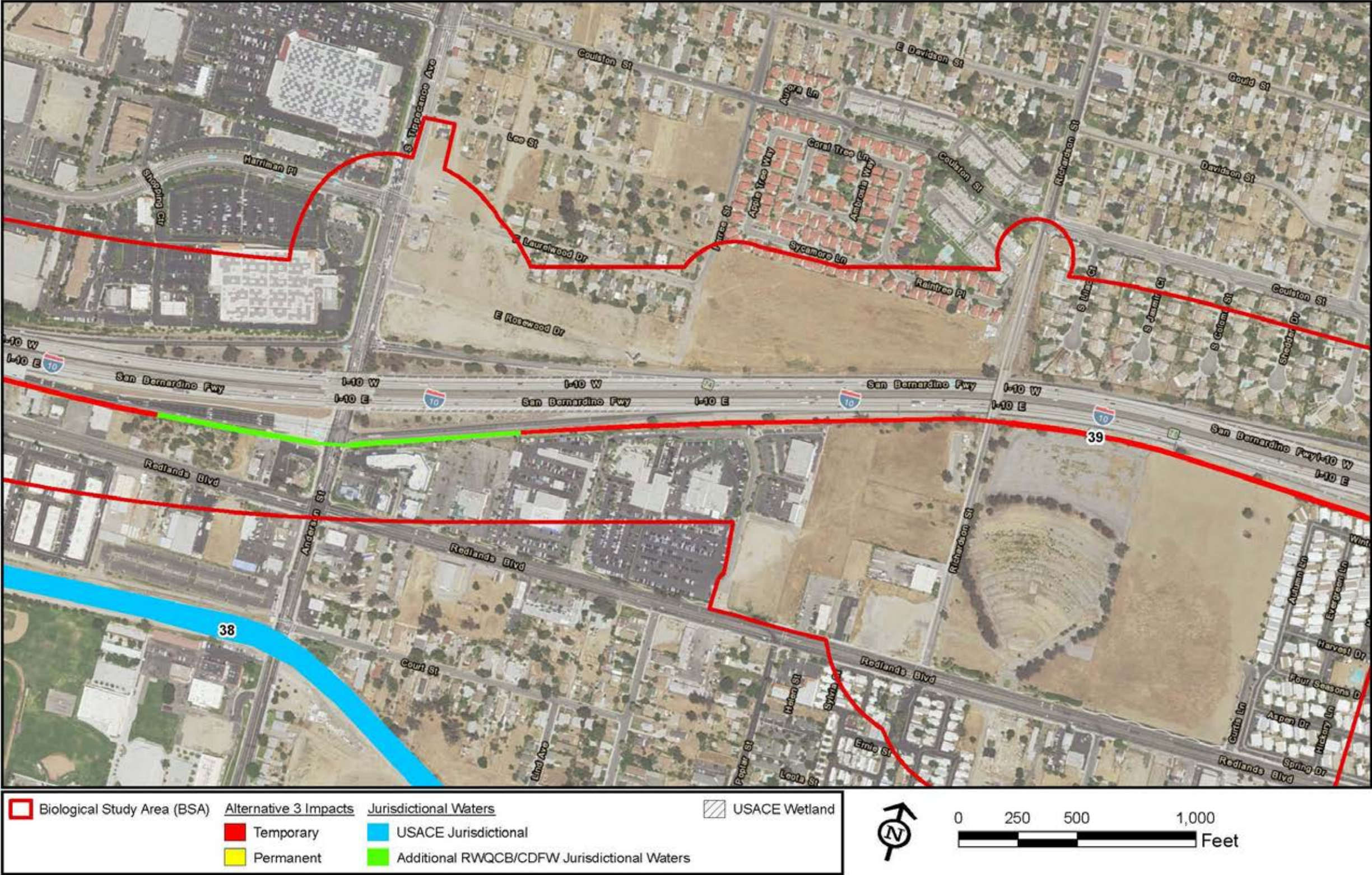
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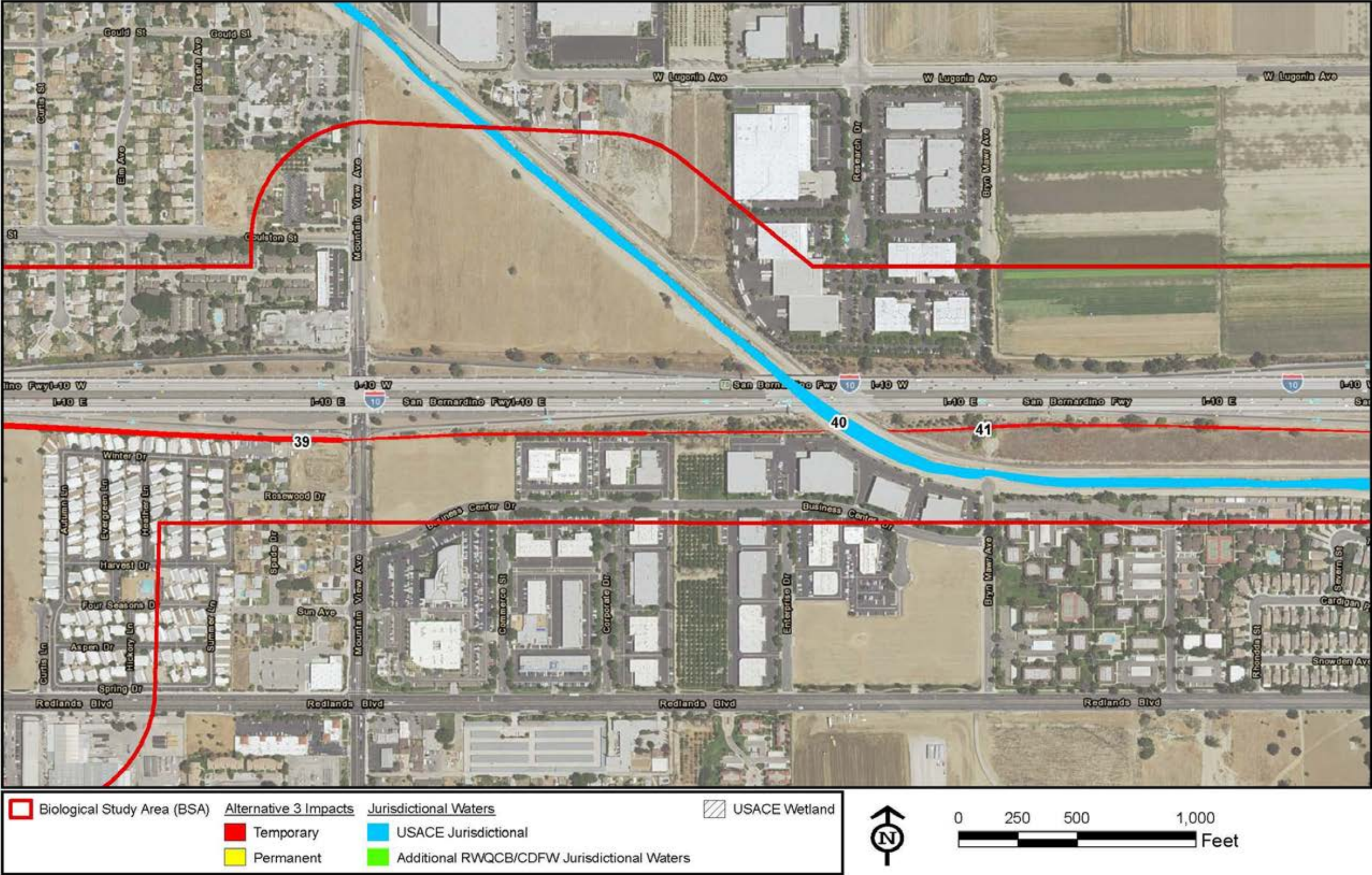
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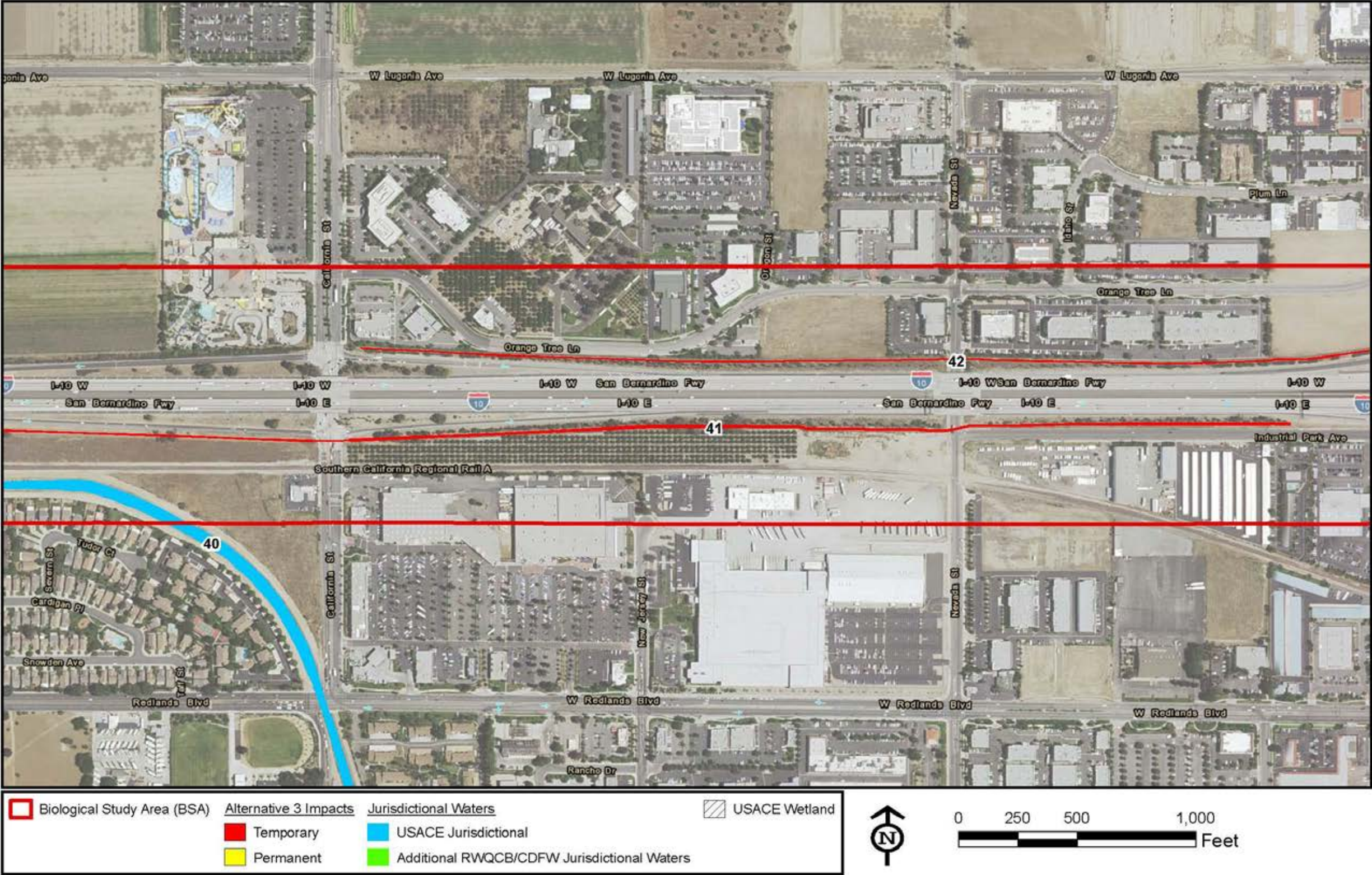
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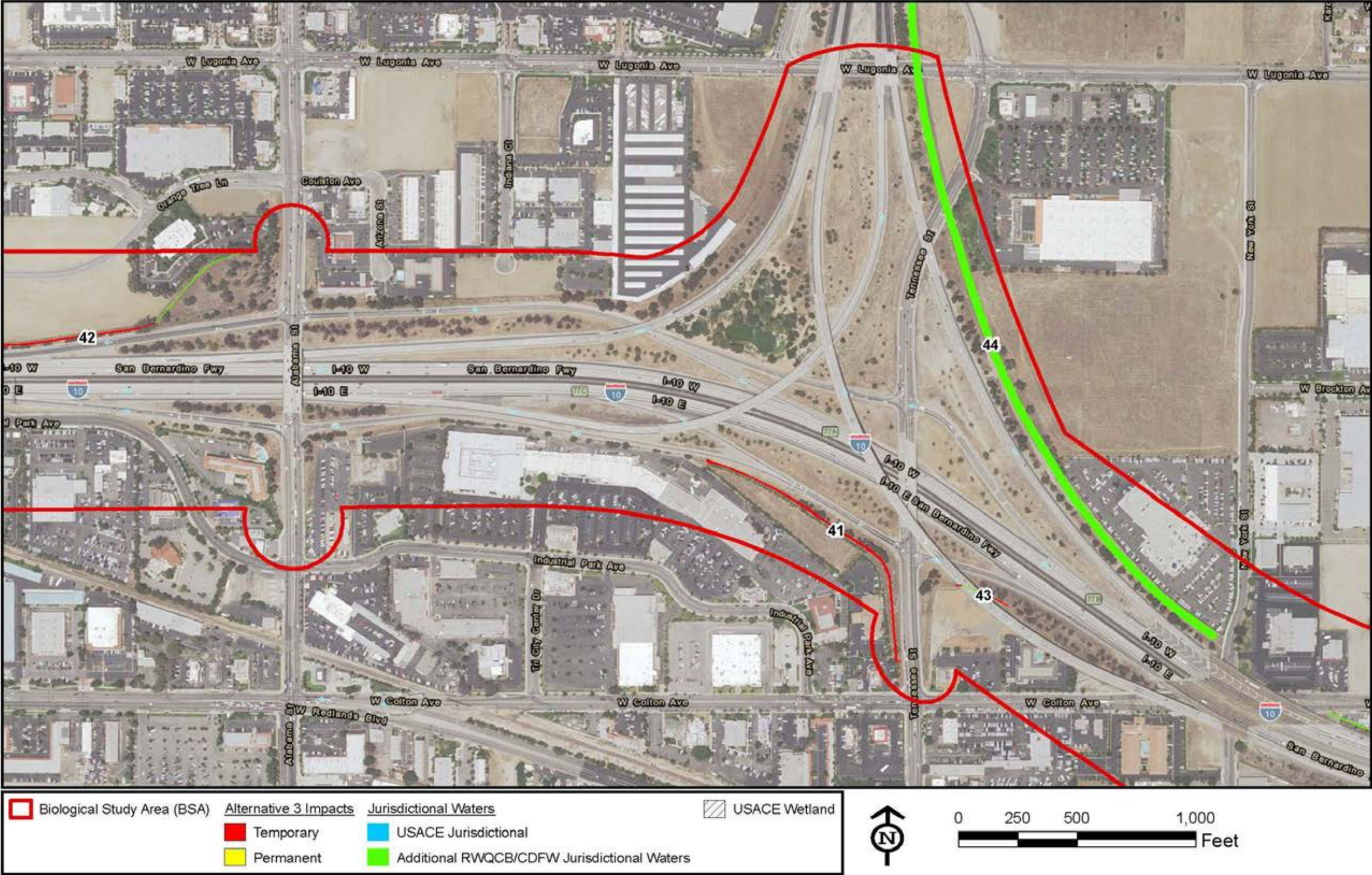
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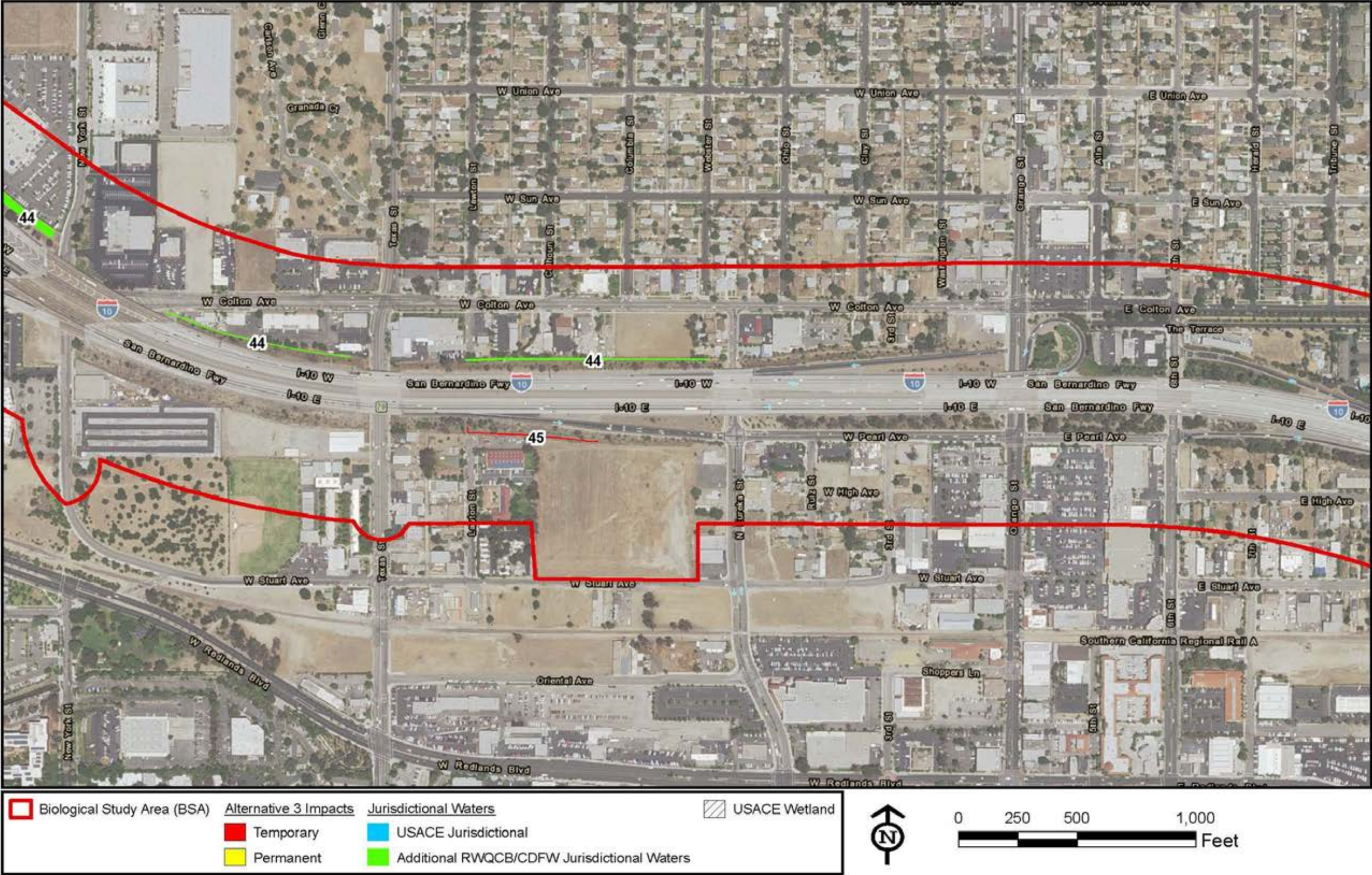
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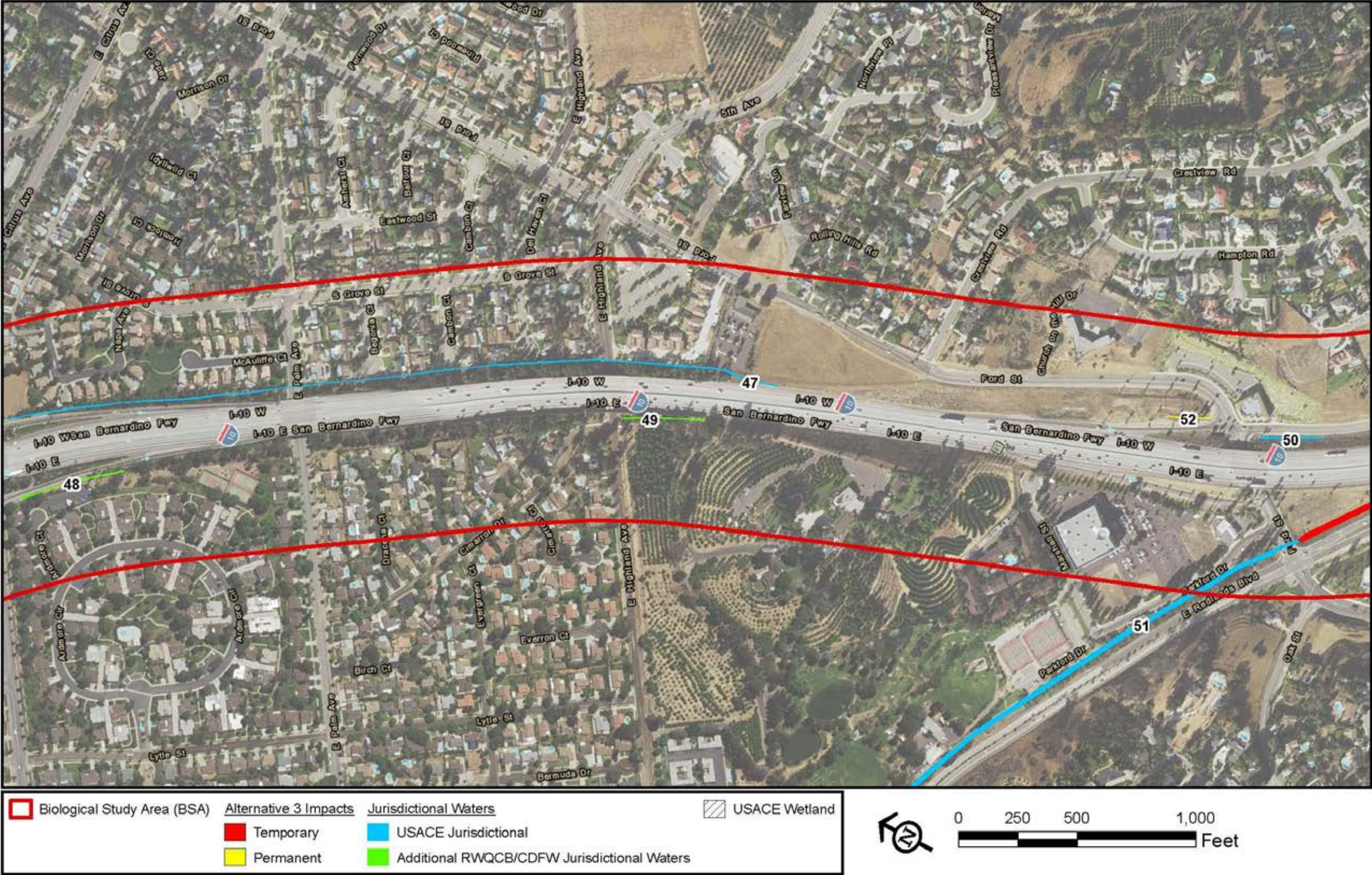


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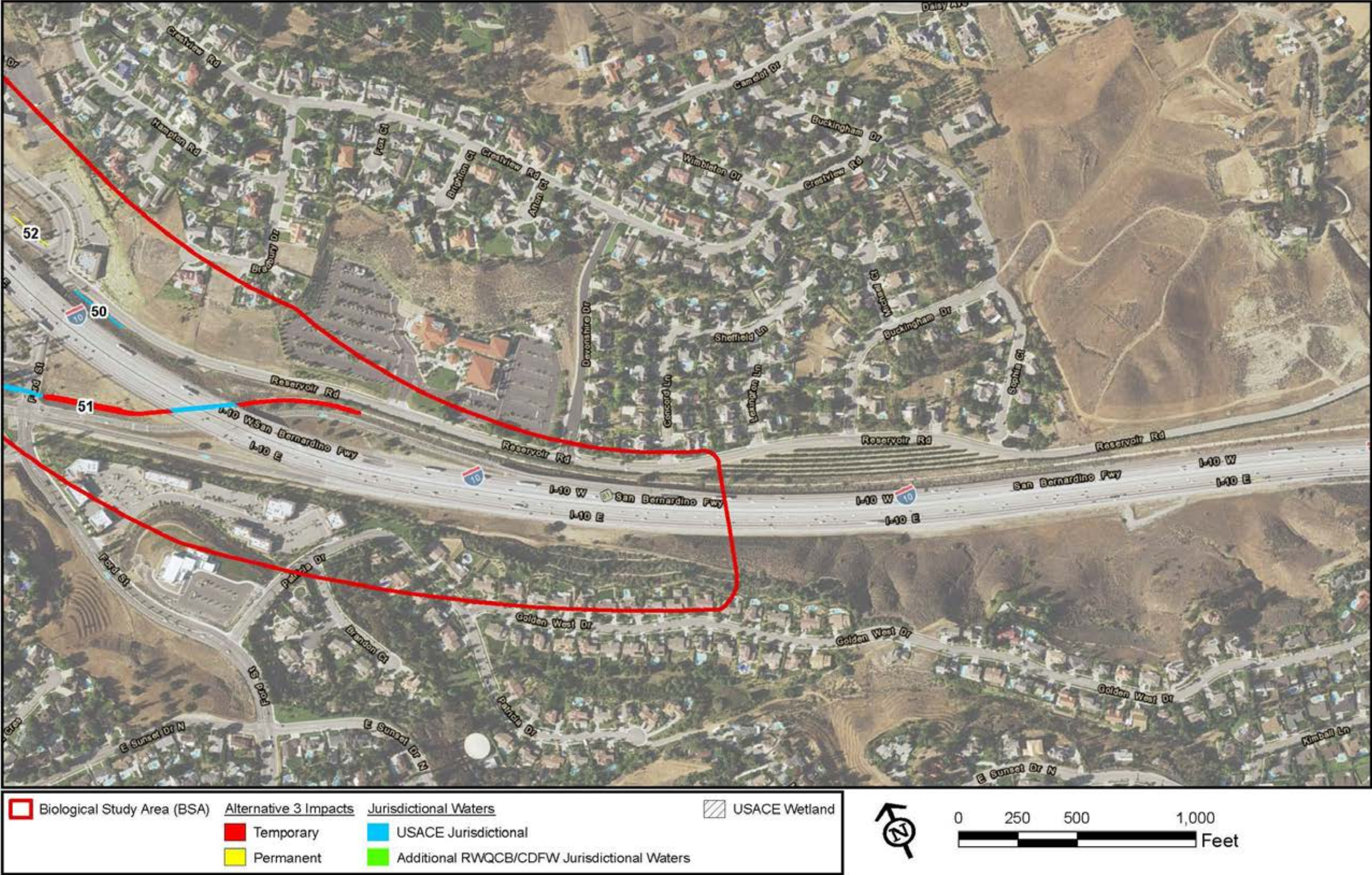


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